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(54) **METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR DETERMINING, COMMUNICATING AND USING INFORMATION WHICH CAN BE USED FOR INTERFERENCE CONTROL**

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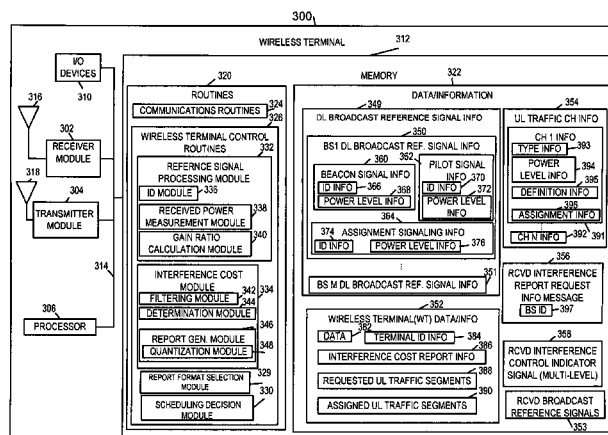
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A wireless terminal receives a broadcast uplink interference report request conveying a requested report type and/or a locally unique base station identifier. The wireless terminal receives and measures broadcast reference signals, e.g., beacon and/or pilot signals, transmitted from a plurality of base station attachment points. Specific type interference reports relate a current serving connection base station attachment point to a selected base station attachment point corresponding to the received base station identifier. Generic type interference reports relate a current serving base station connection attachment point to other unspecified base station attachment points whose broadcast reference signals have been detected by the wireless terminal. Sub-types of generic reports include summation function and maximum function reports. Timing information is sometimes used to determine report sub-type and/or sector type of the selected attachment point. The wireless terminal generates the requested report and transmits it to the current connection attachment point.

42 Claims, 32 Drawing Sheets



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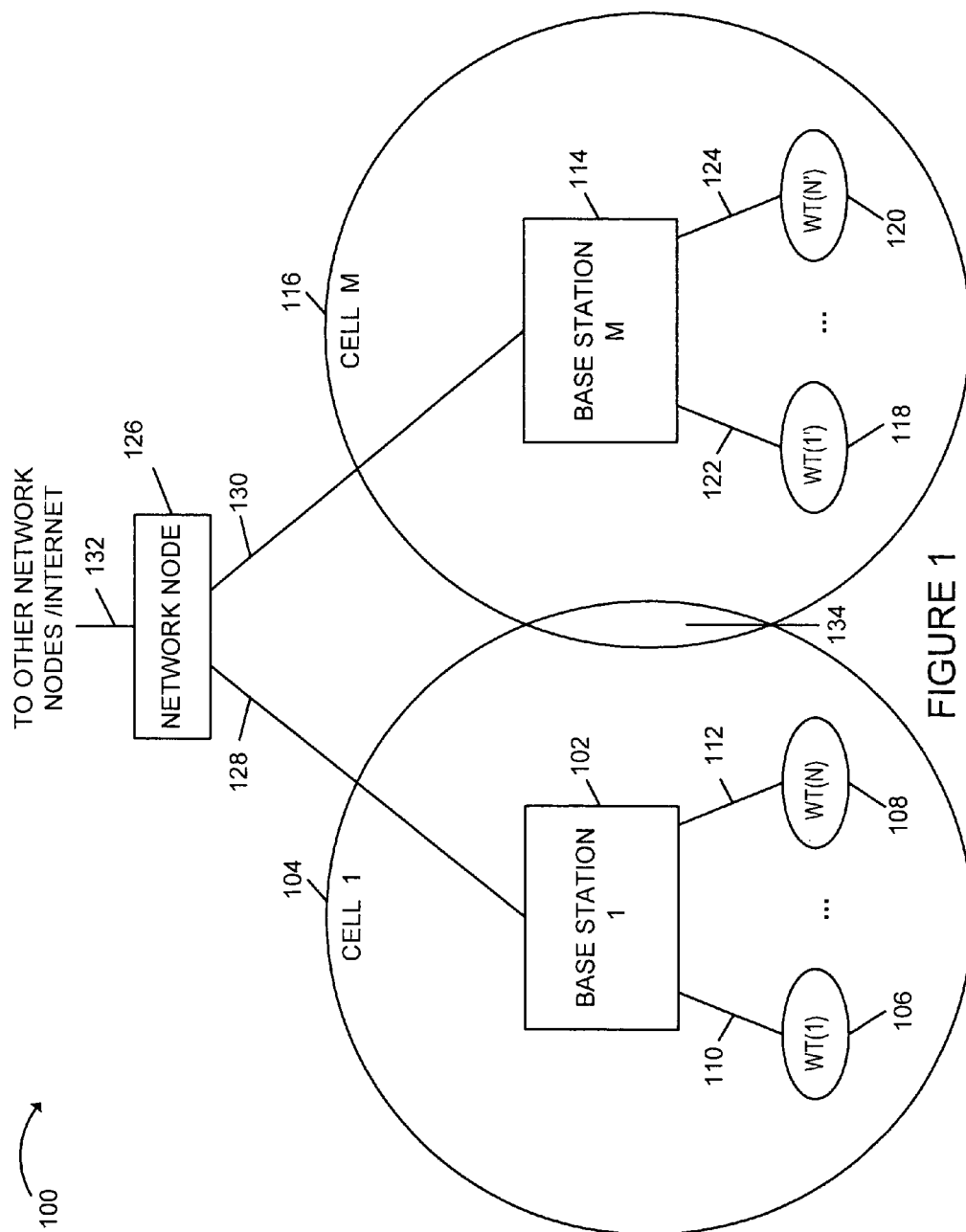


FIGURE 1

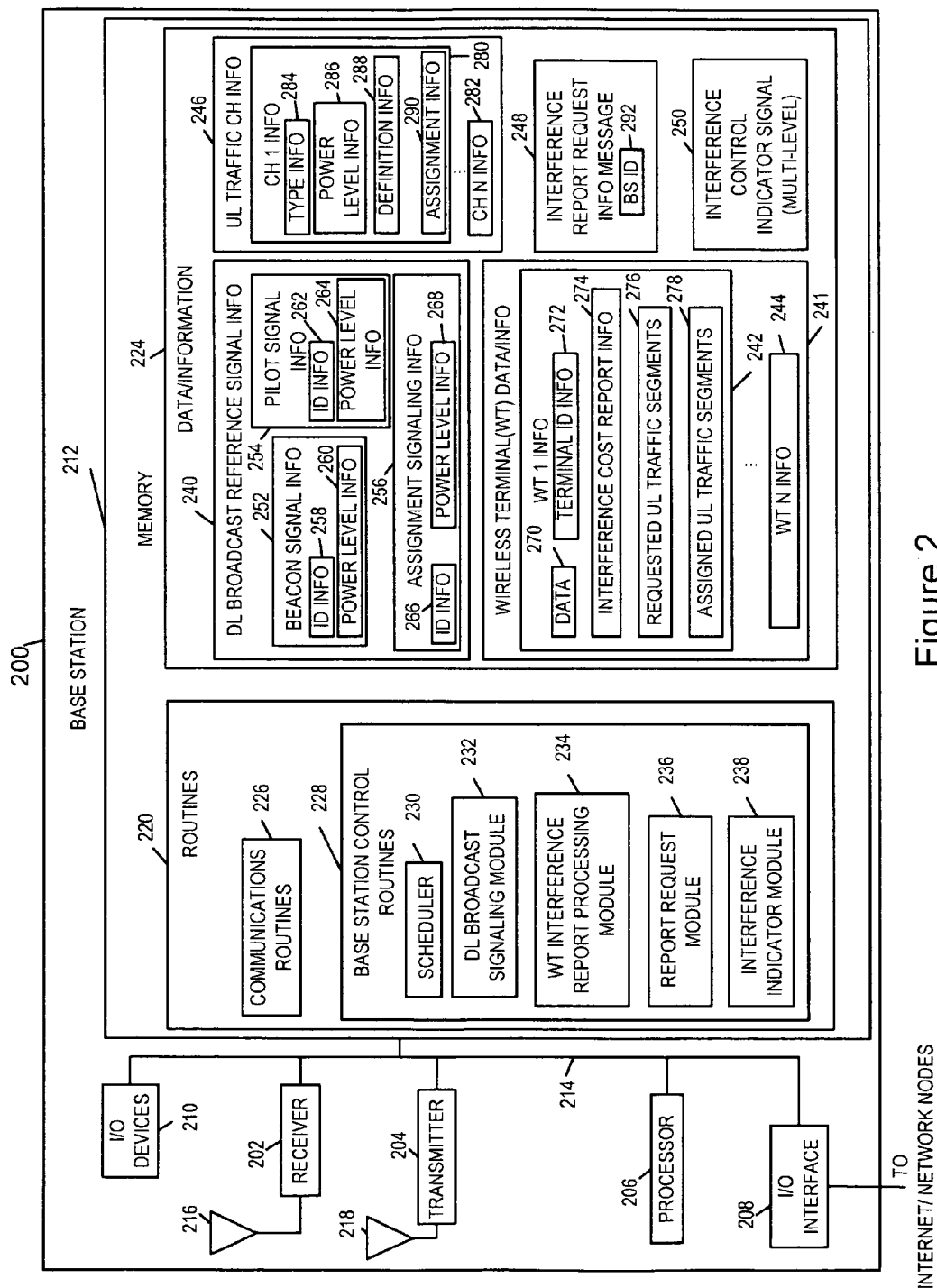


Figure 2

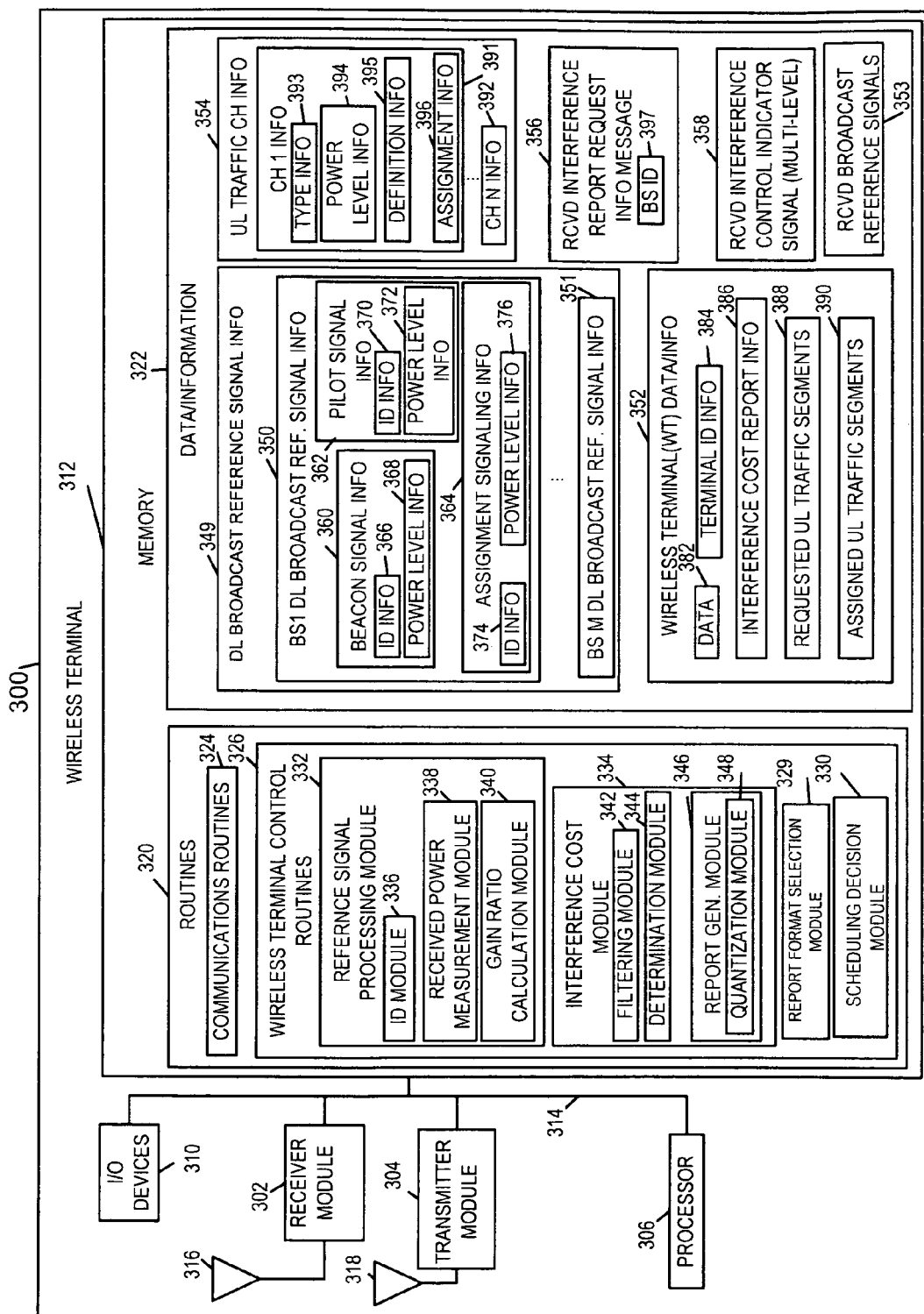


Figure 3

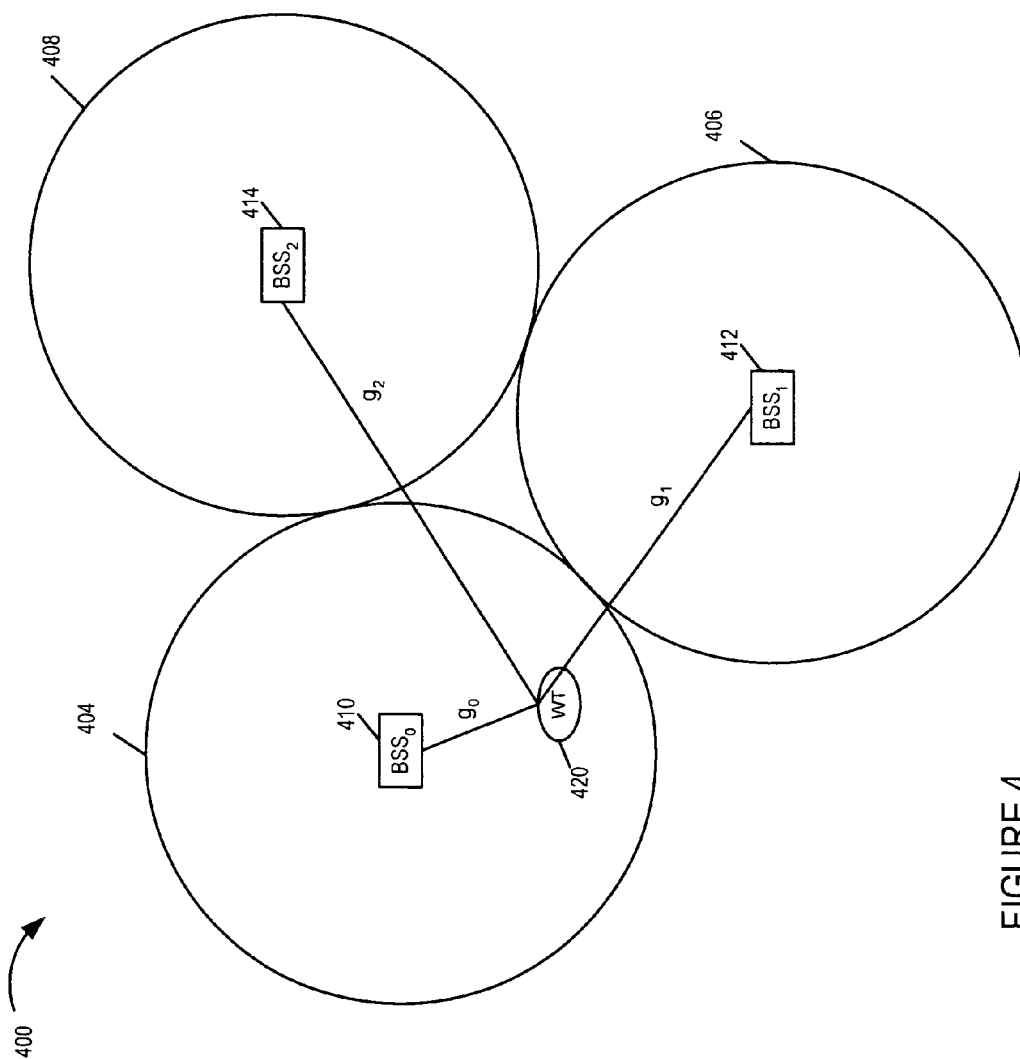


FIGURE 4

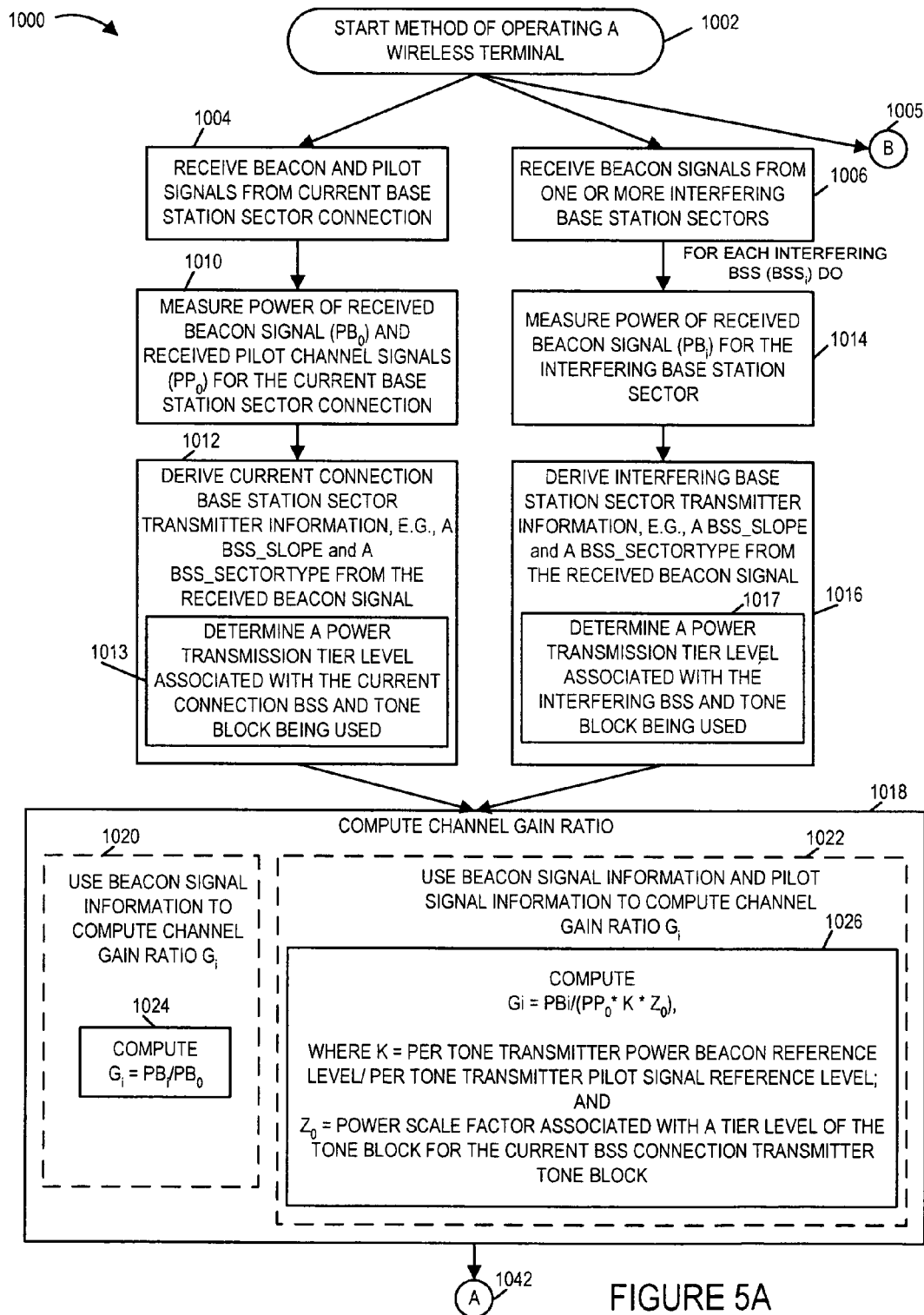


FIGURE 5A

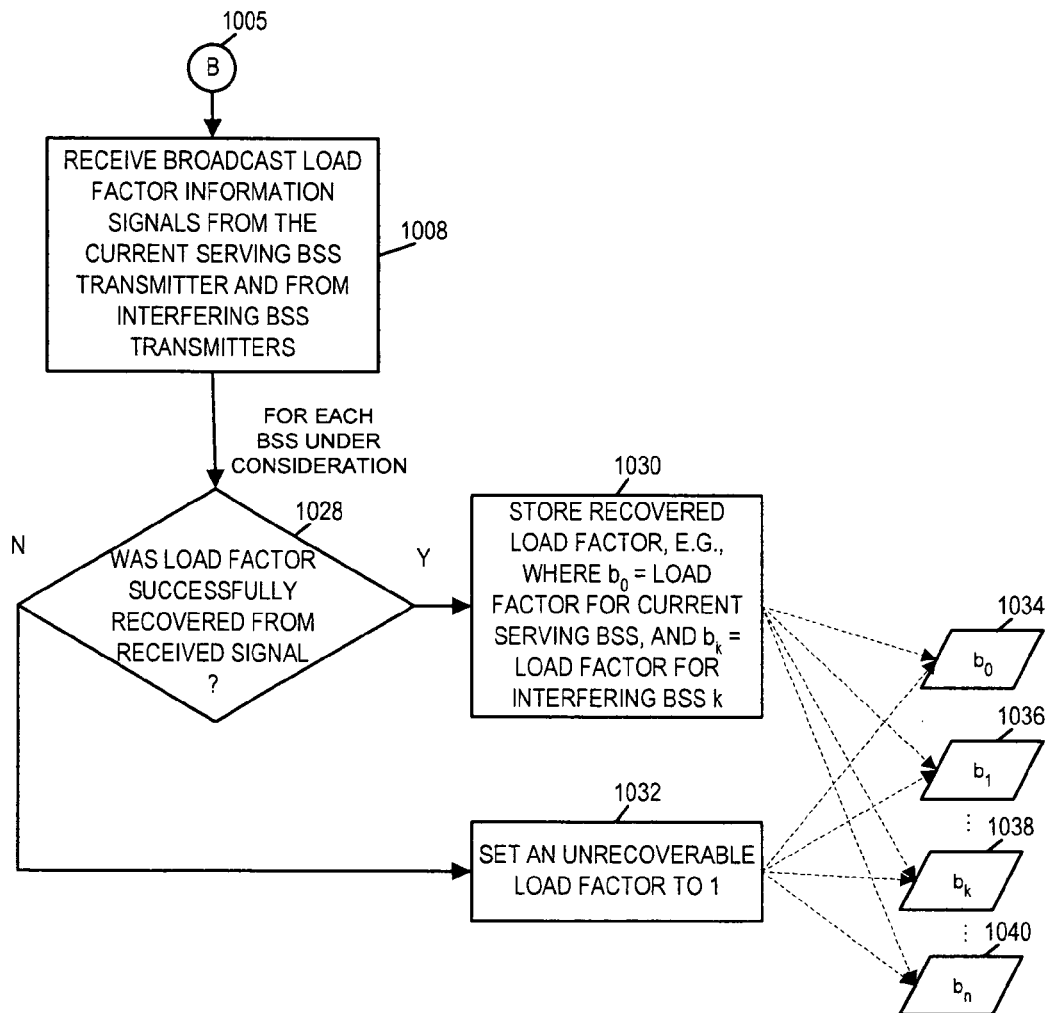
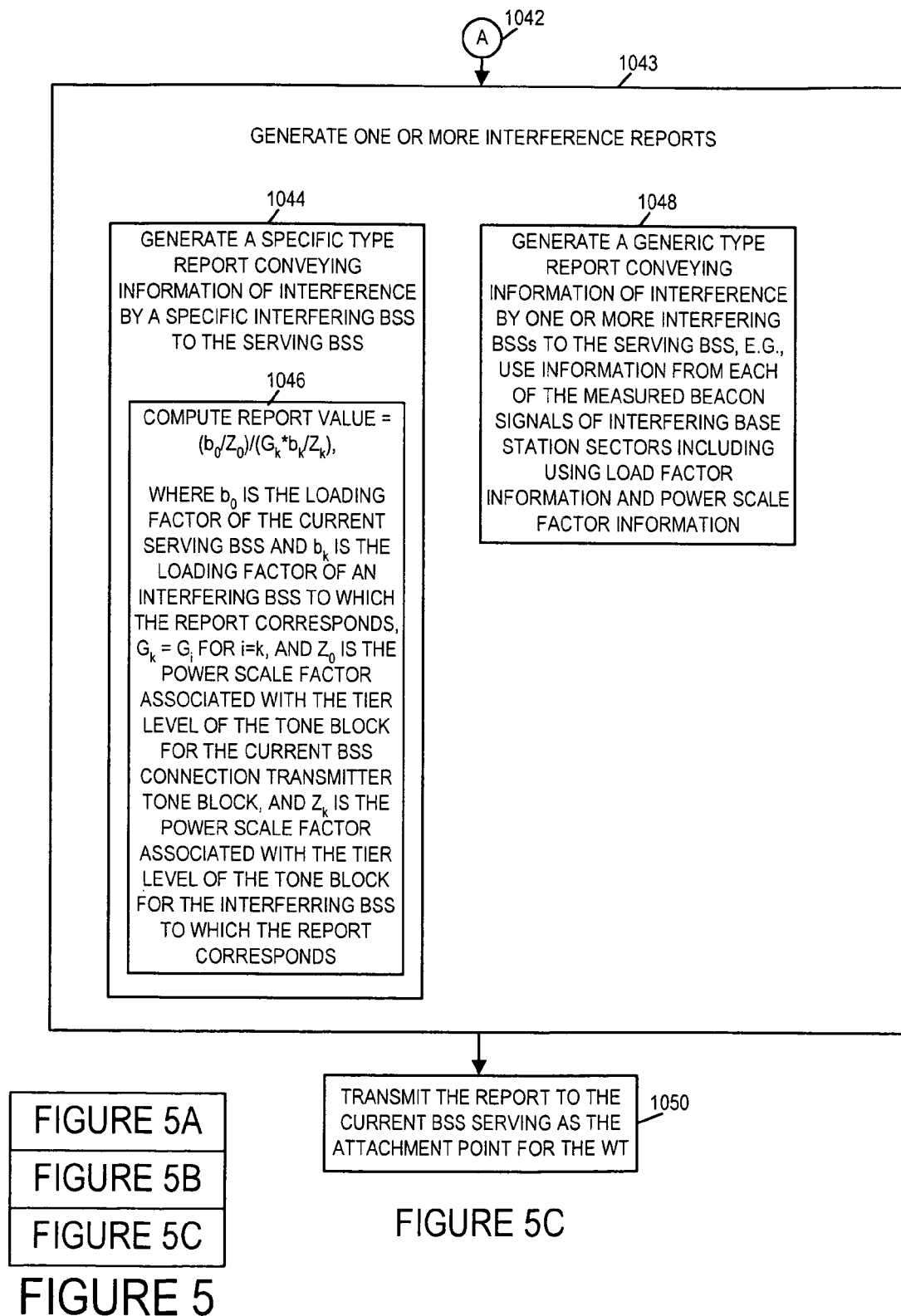


FIGURE 5B



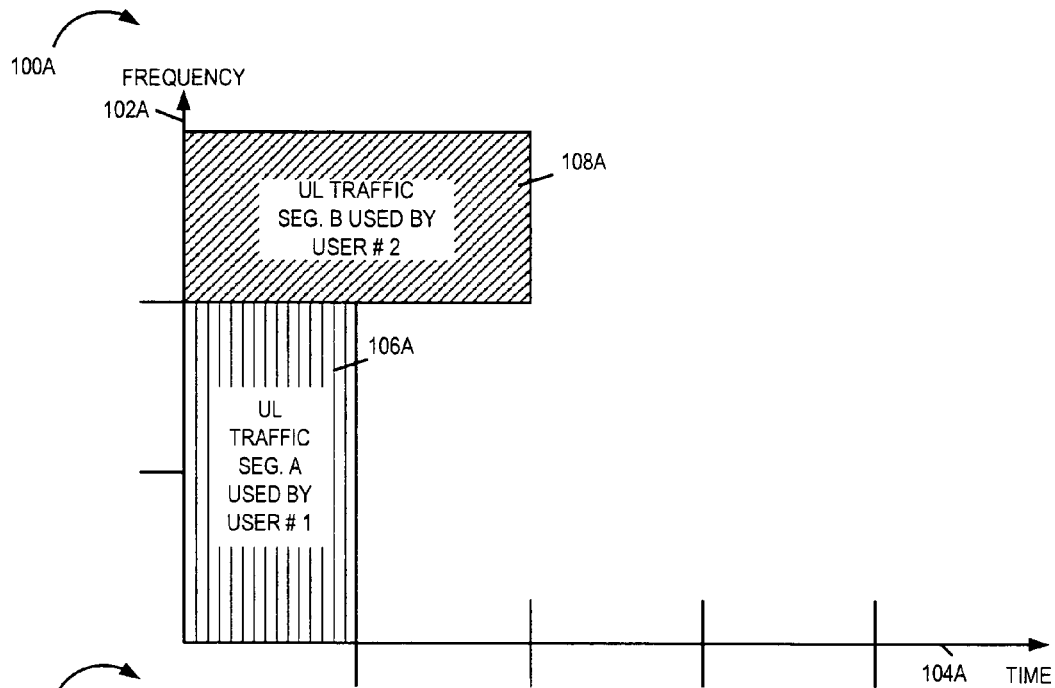


FIGURE 6

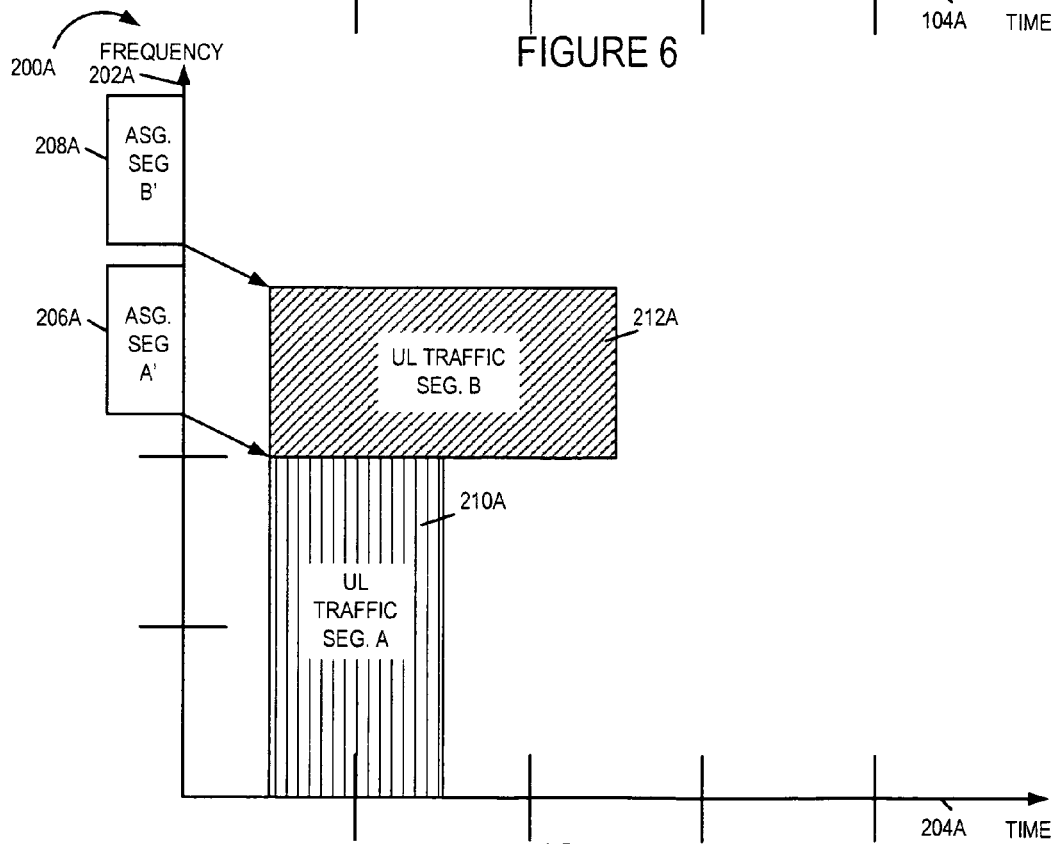
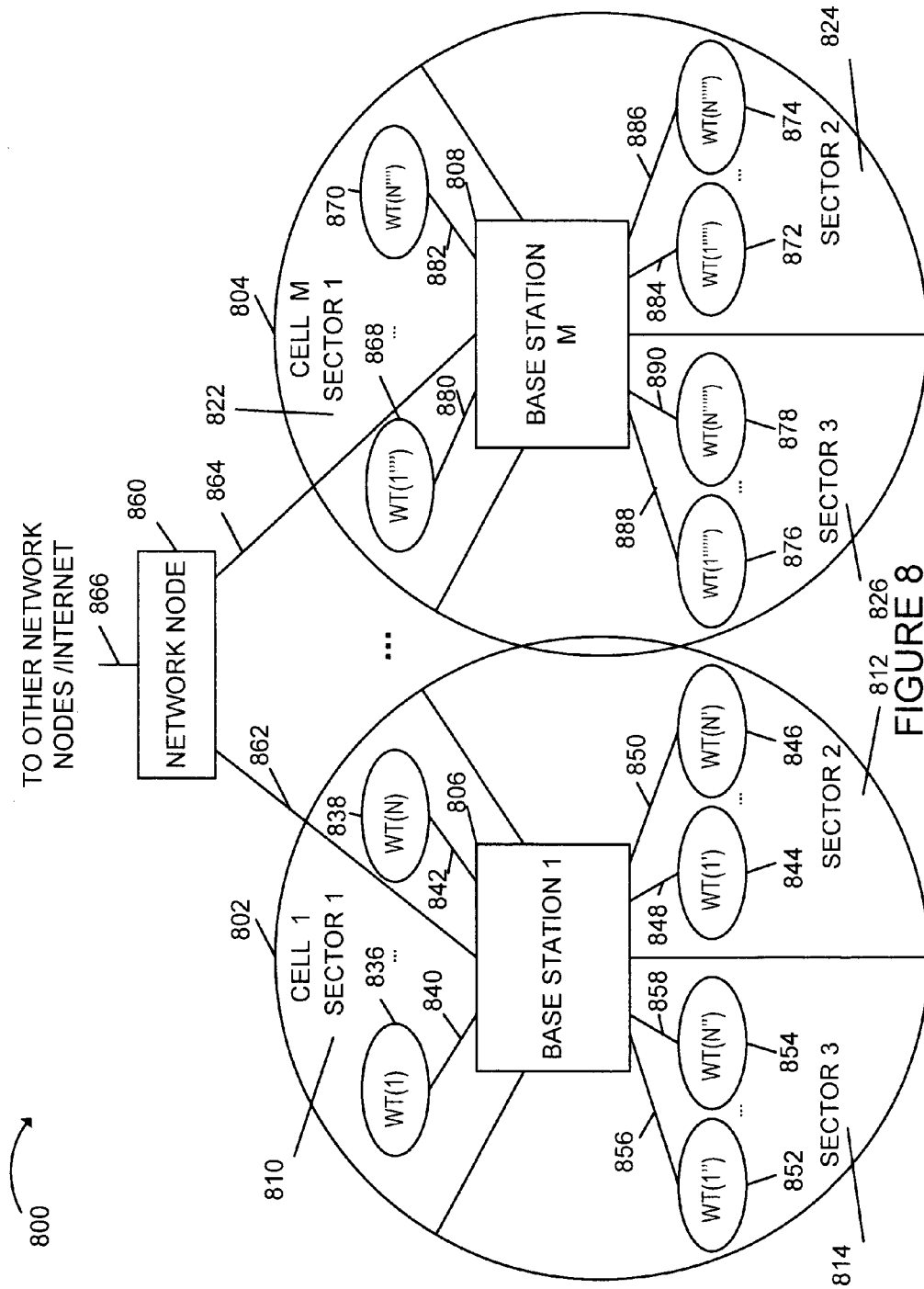


FIGURE 7



900

902

904

Power scaling factor:	
Use of the tone block	Scaling factor
Tier 0 tone block	1
Tier 1 tone block	bssPowerBackoff01
Tier 2 tone block	bssPowerBackoff02

FIGURE 9

950

952

954

UL loading factor:	
UL loading factor in DL.BCH.BST of BSS i	b_i , in dB
0	0
1	-1
2	-2
3	-3
4	-4
5	-6
6	-9
7	-infinity

FIGURE 10

1100 ↗

1102 ↓

1104 ↓

Format of 4 Bit Downlink Beacon Ratio Report (DLBNR4):	
UL loading factor in DL.BCH.BST of BSS i	Reported power ratio of the DL.BNCH channels
0b0000	-3 dB
0b0001	-2 dB
0b0010	0 dB
0b0011	1 dB
0b0100	2 dB
0b0101	3 dB
0b0110	4 dB
0b0111	6 dB
0b1000	8 dB
0b1001	10 dB
0b1010	12 dB
0b1011	14 dB
0b1100	16 dB
0b1101	20 dB
0b1110	24 dB
0b1111	26 dB

FIGURE 11

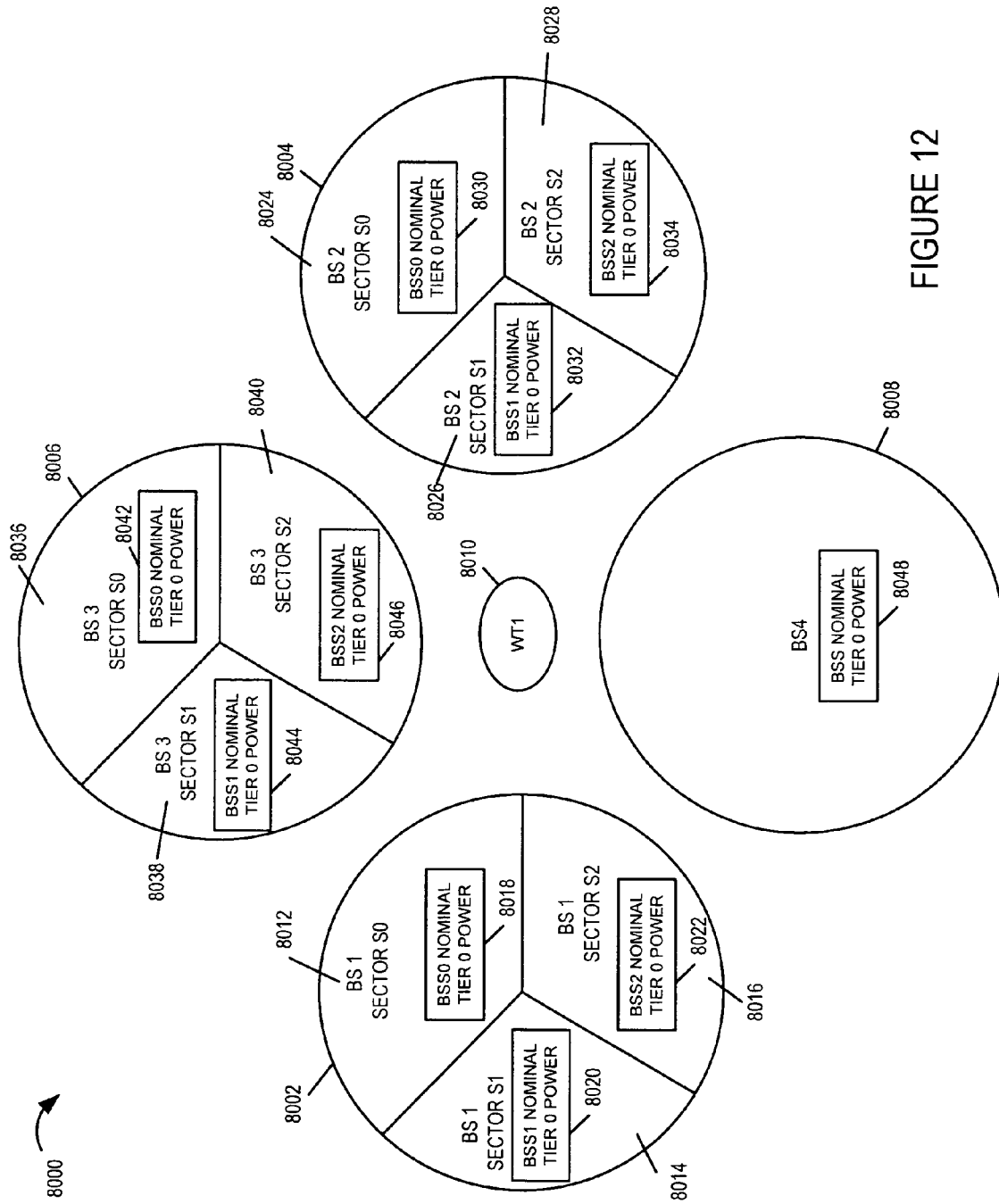


FIGURE 12

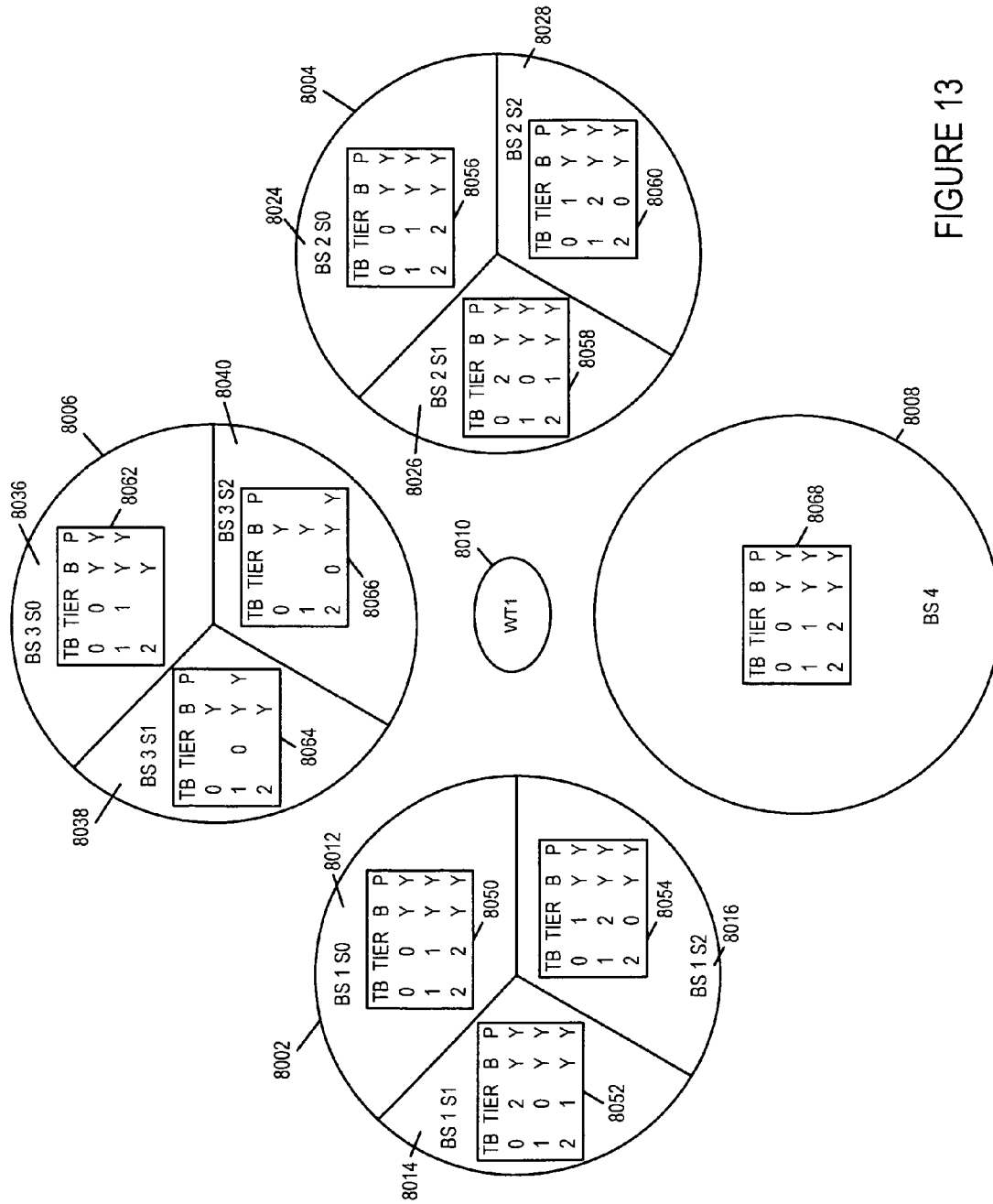


FIGURE 13

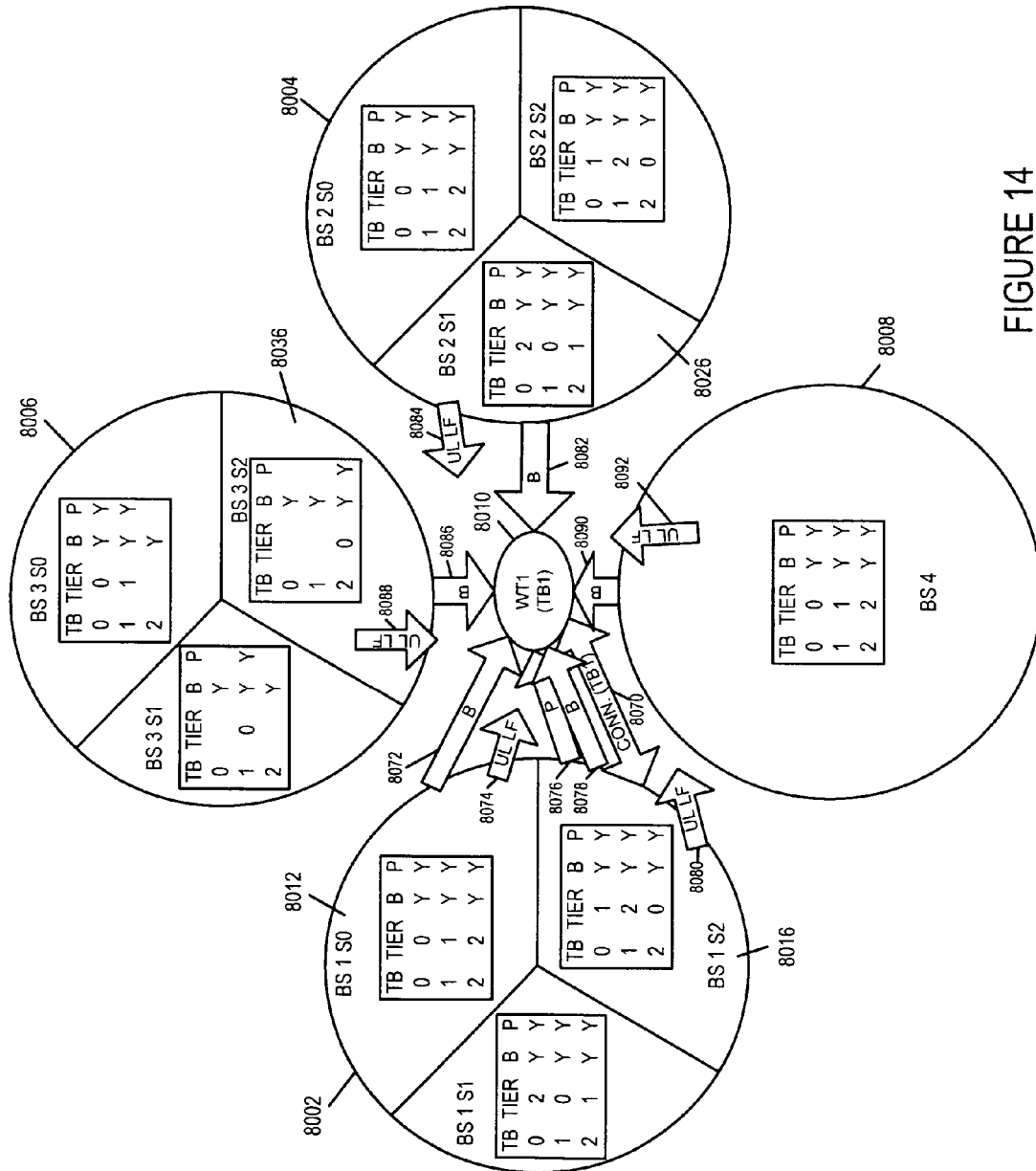


FIGURE 14

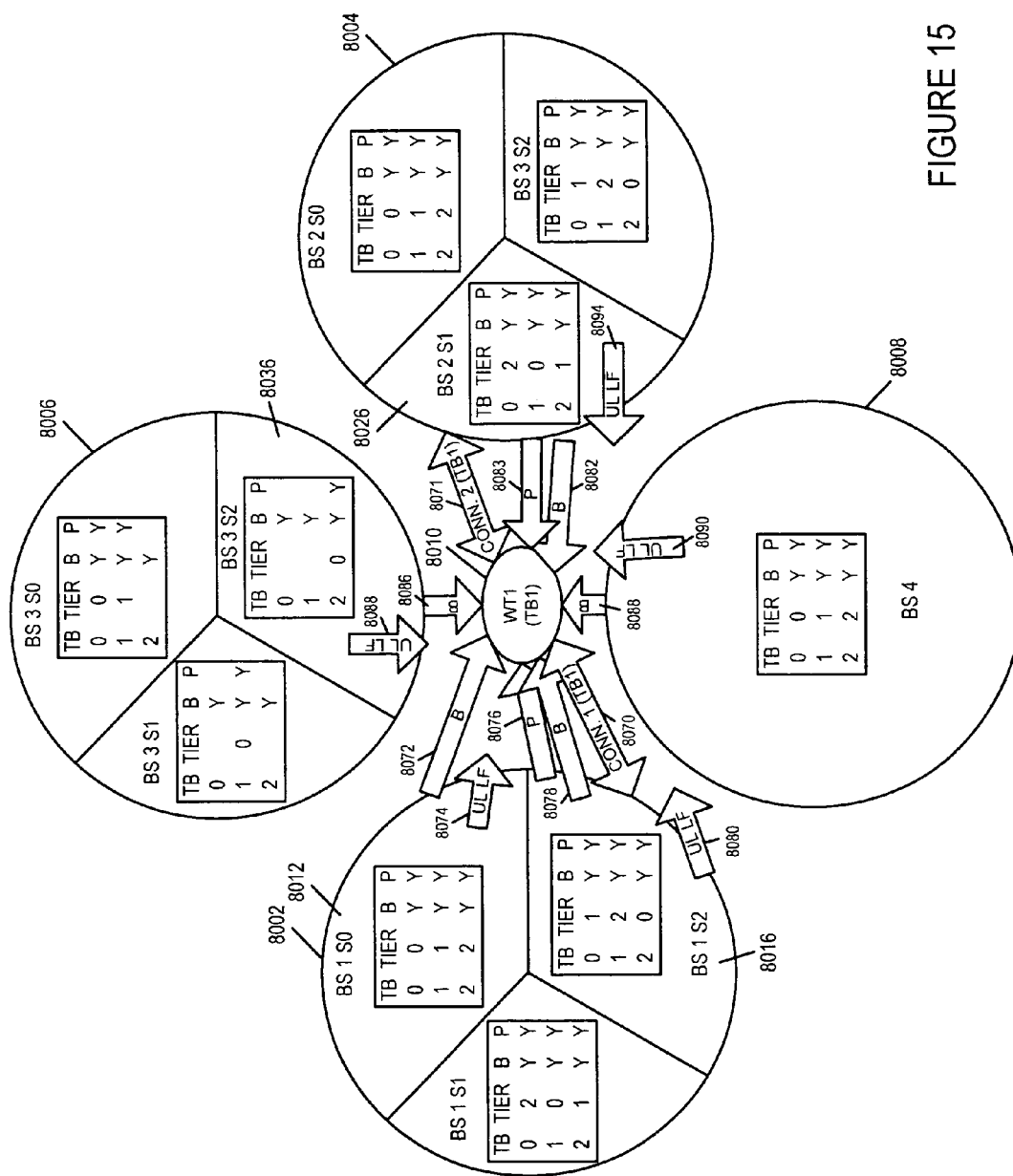


FIGURE 15

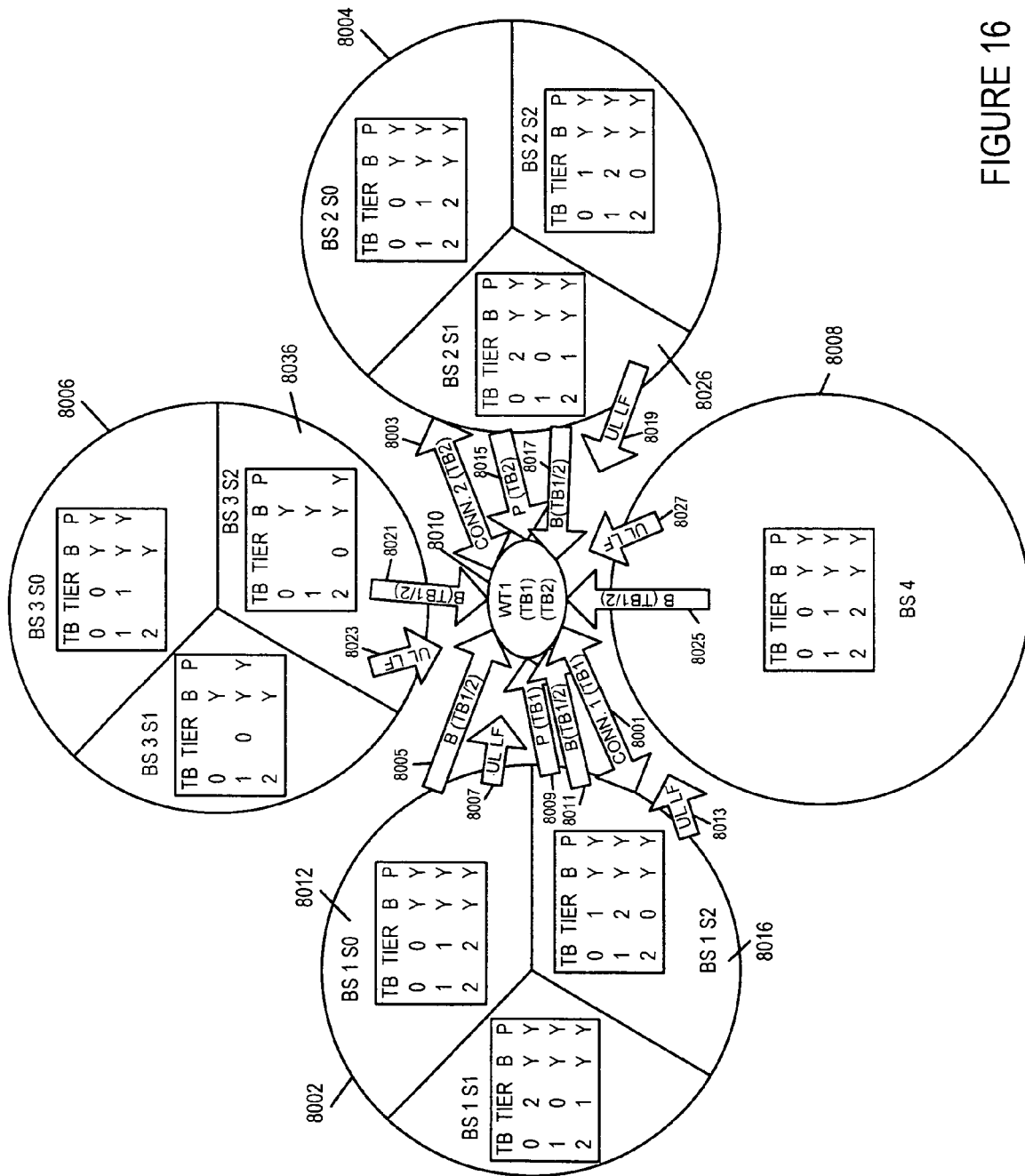


FIGURE 16

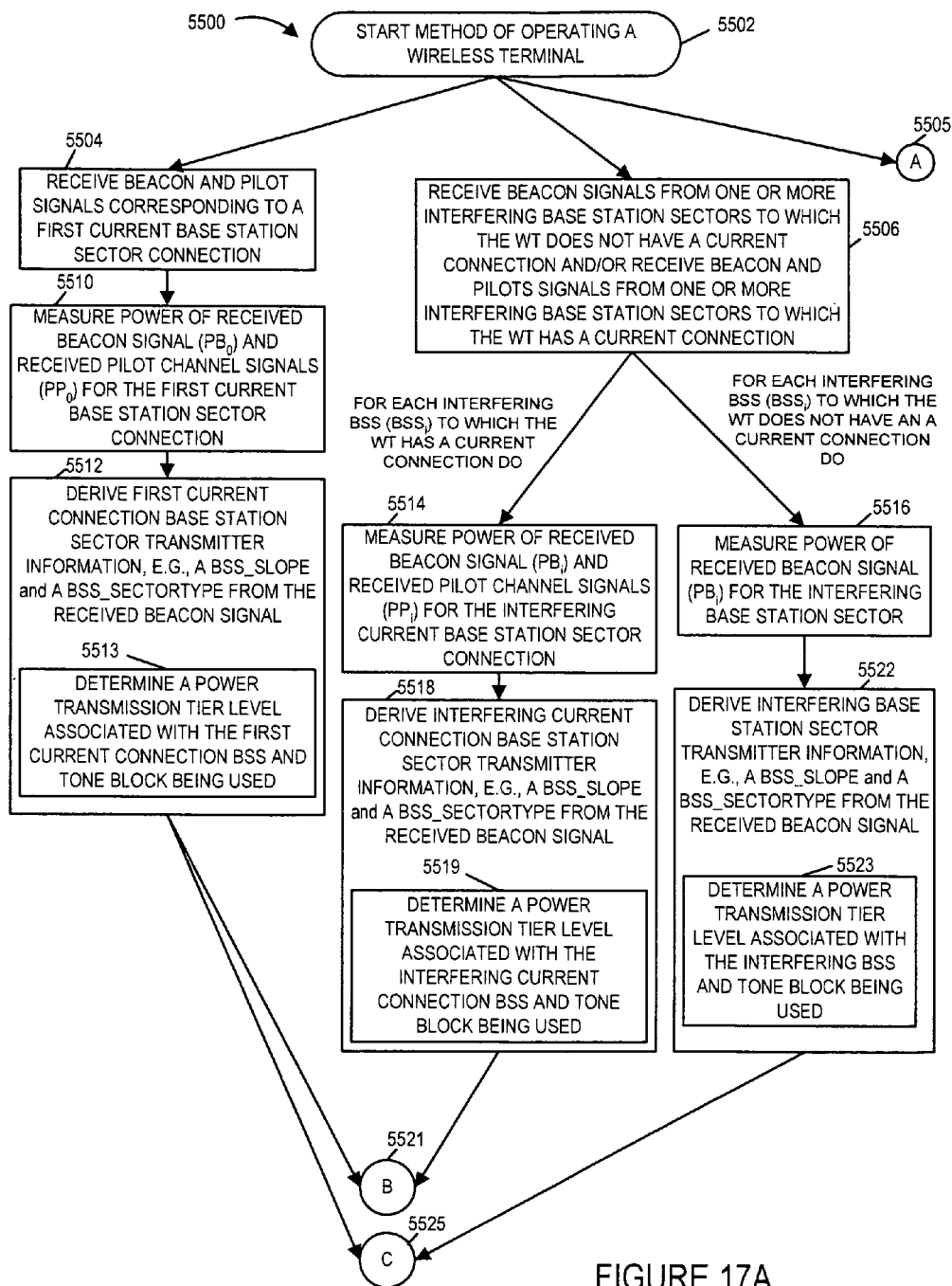


FIGURE 17A

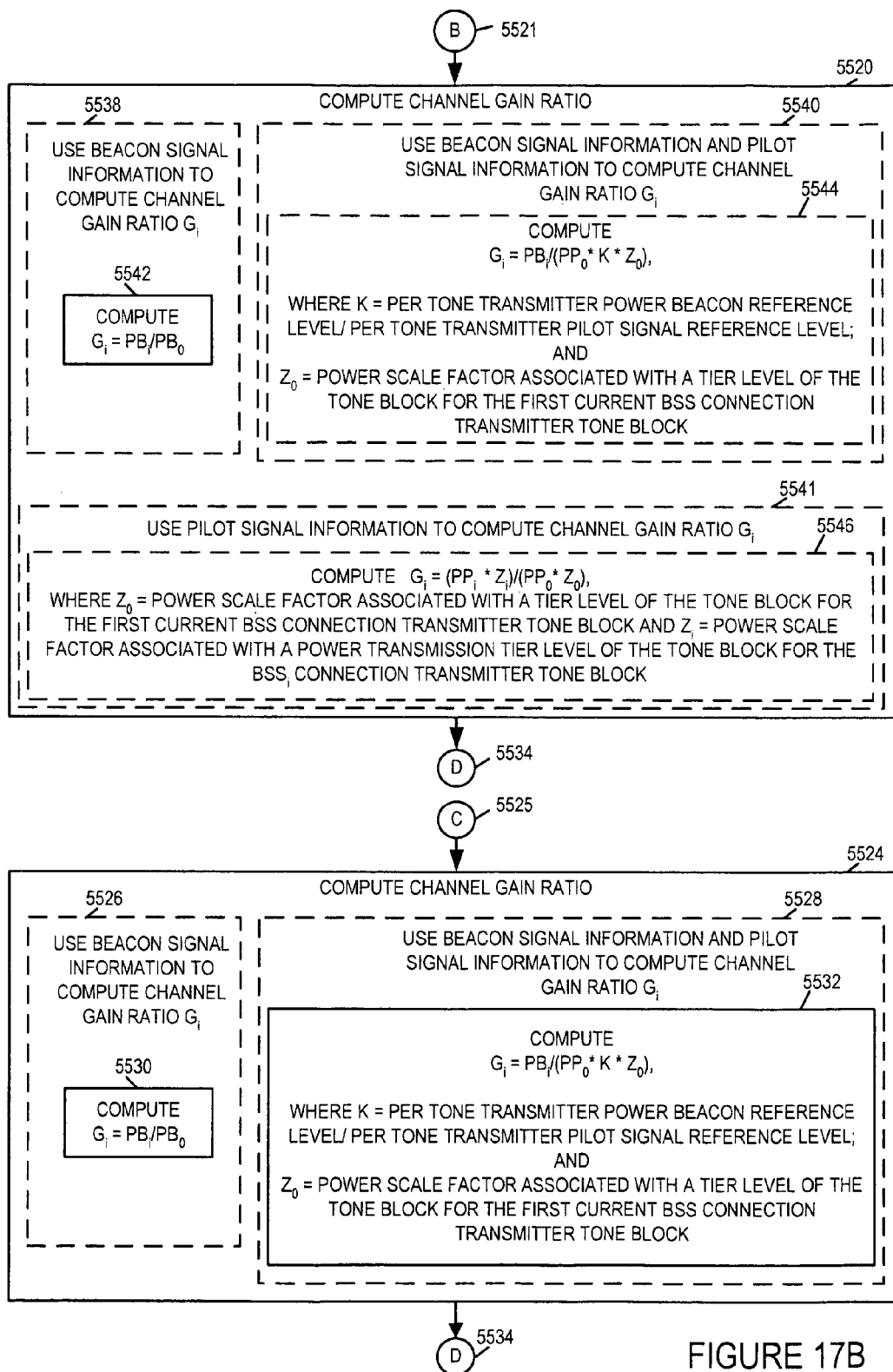


FIGURE 17B

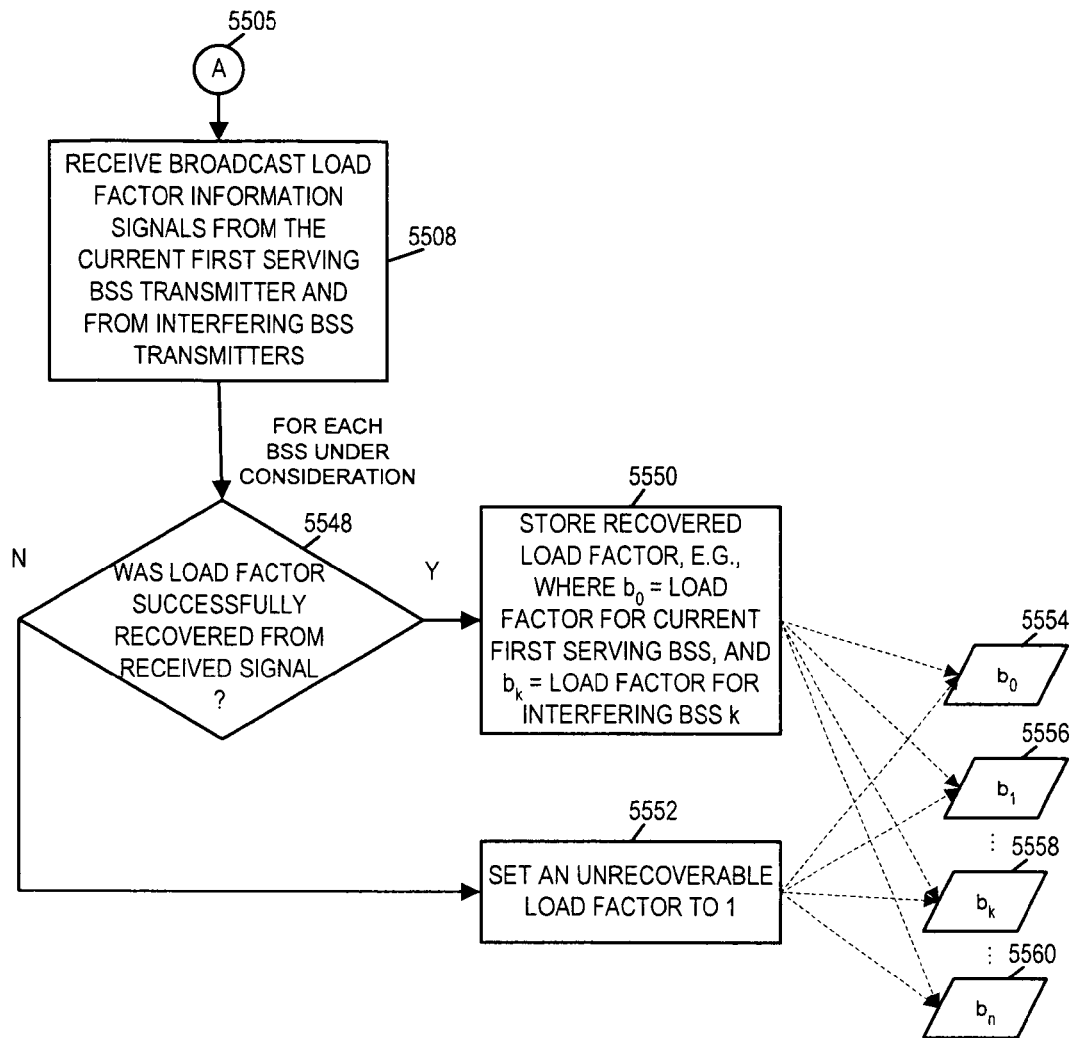


FIGURE 17C

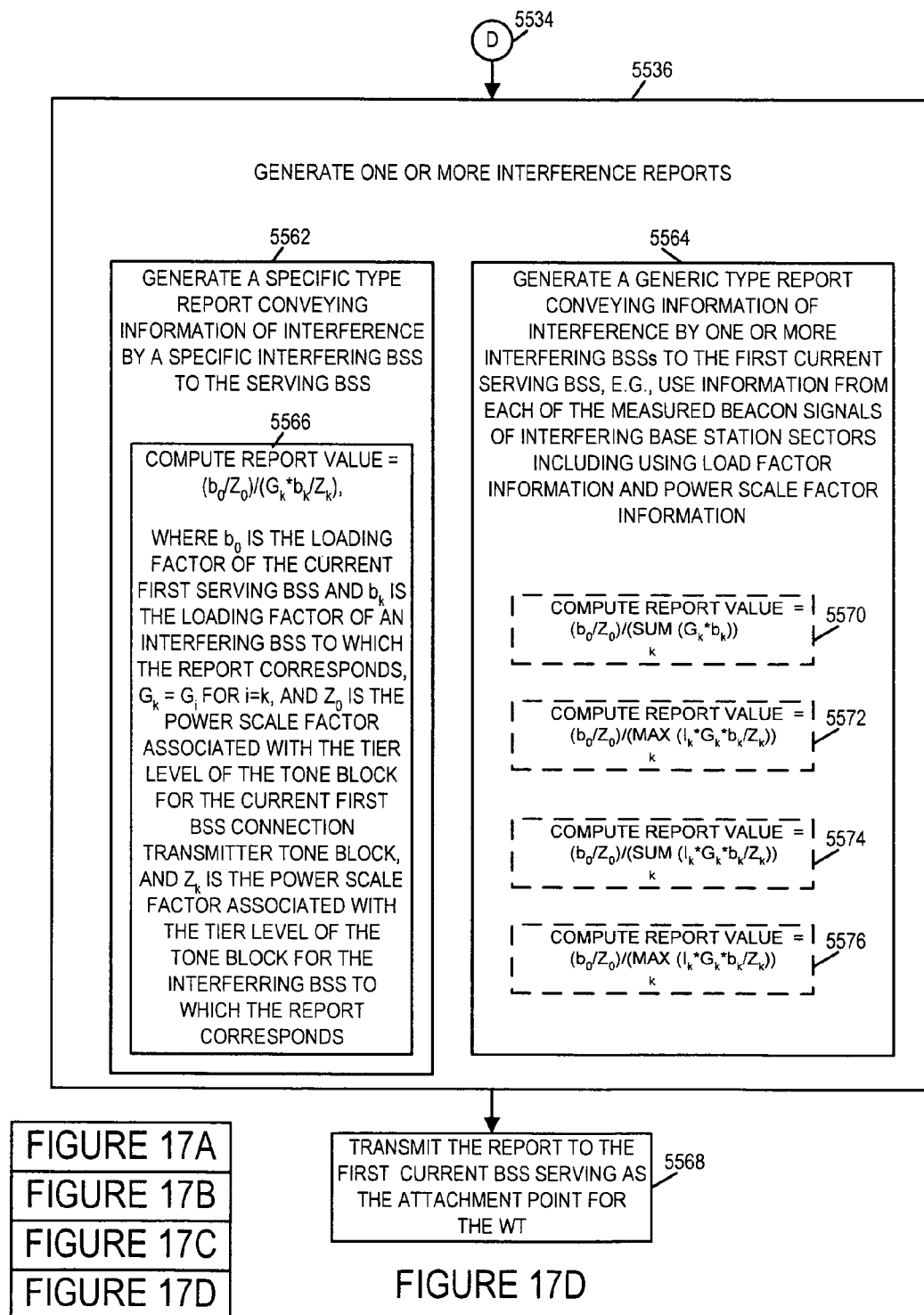


FIGURE 17A

FIGURE 17B

FIGURE 17C

FIGURE 17D

FIGURE 17D

FIGURE 17

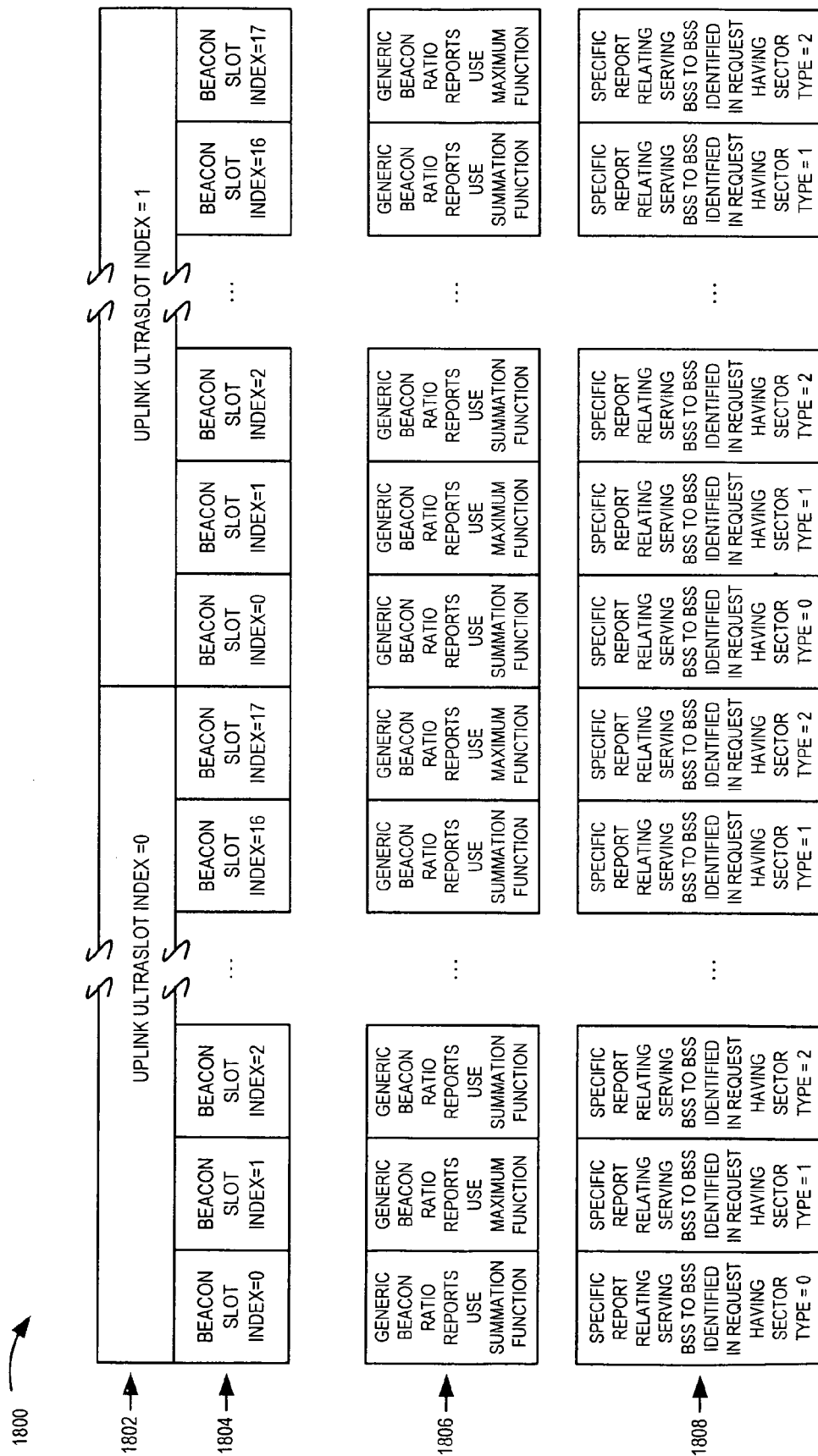


FIGURE 18

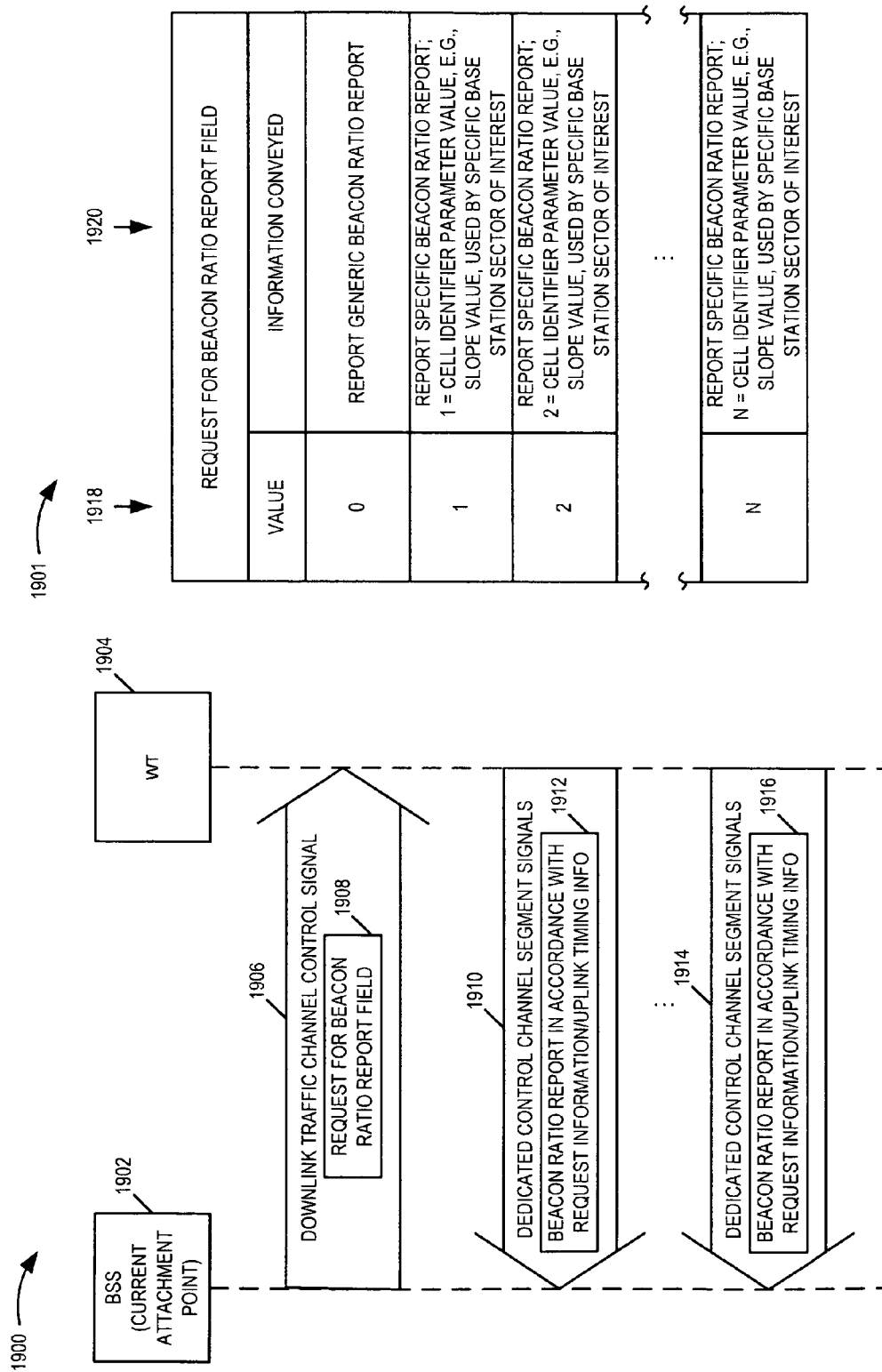


FIGURE 19

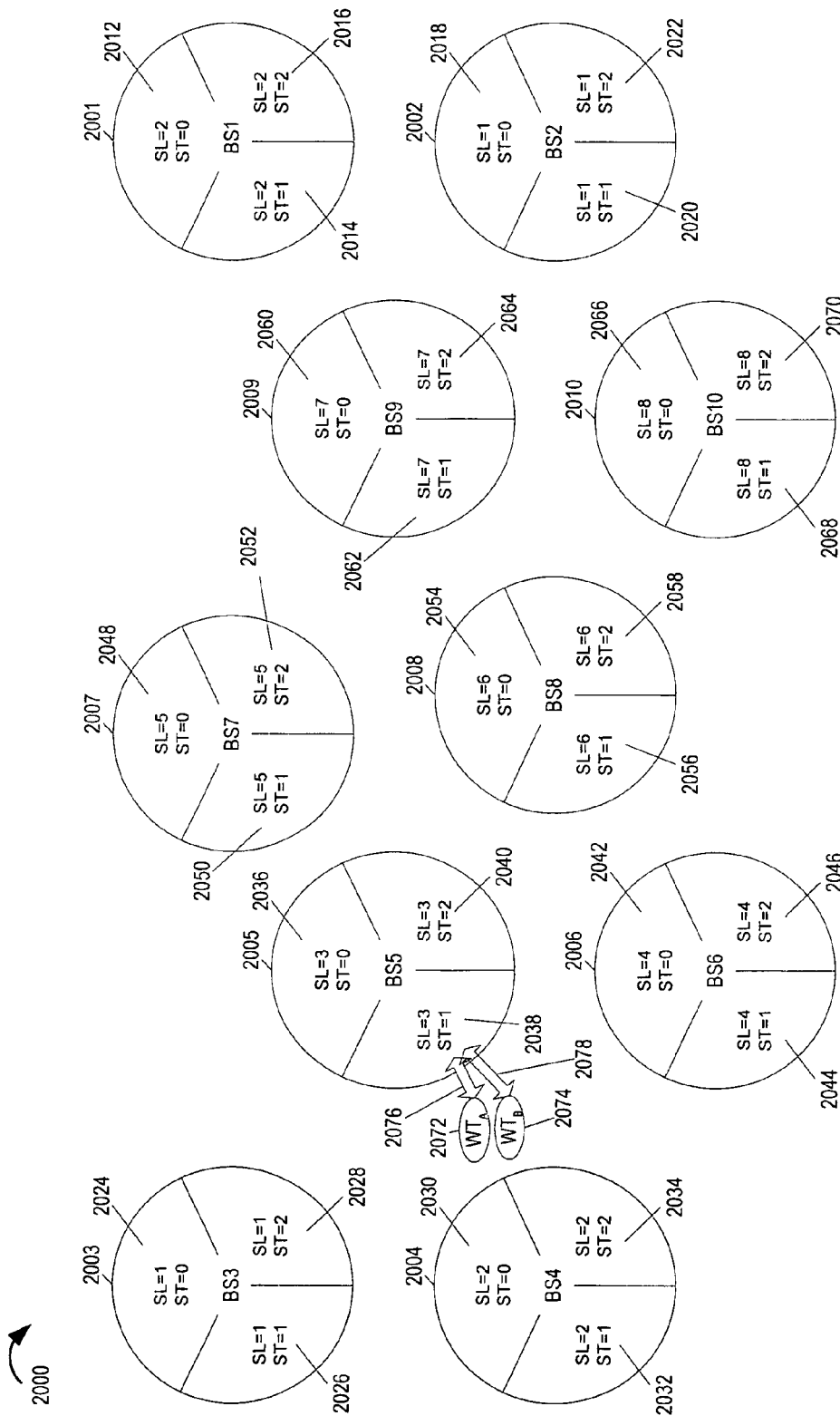
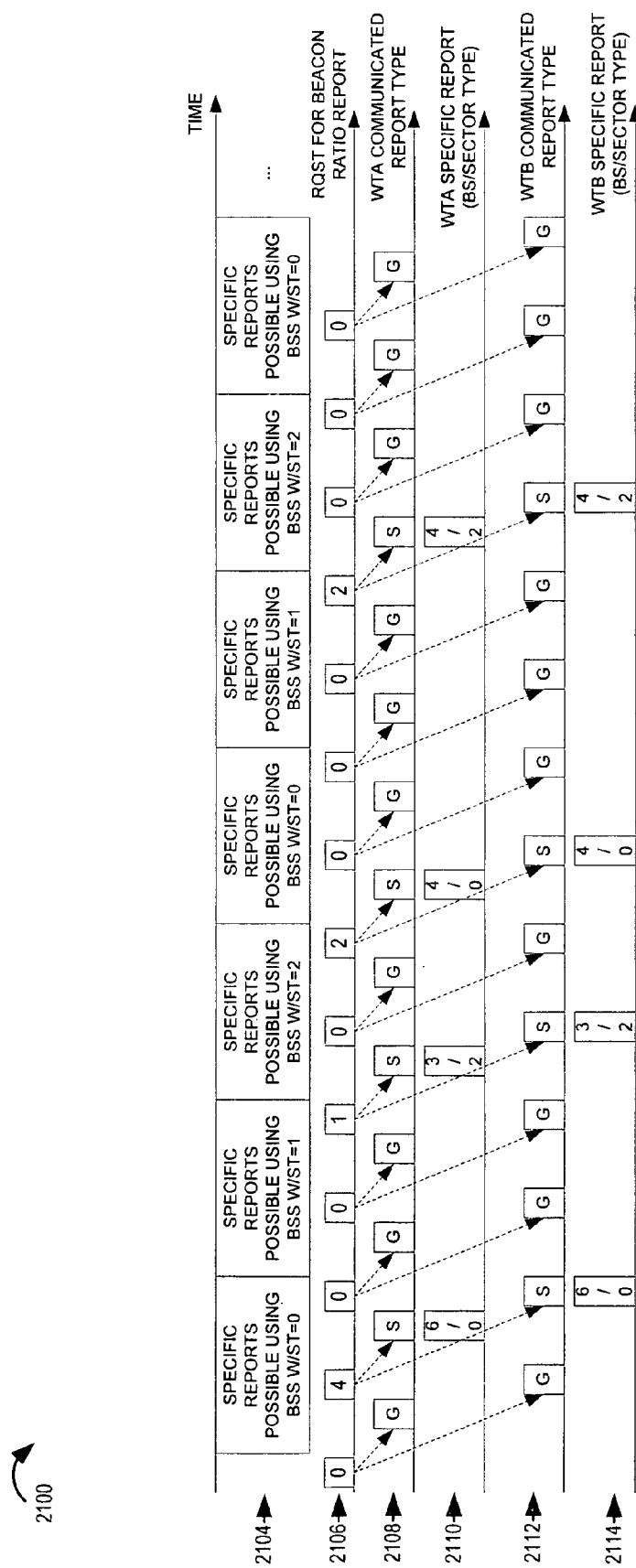


FIGURE 20



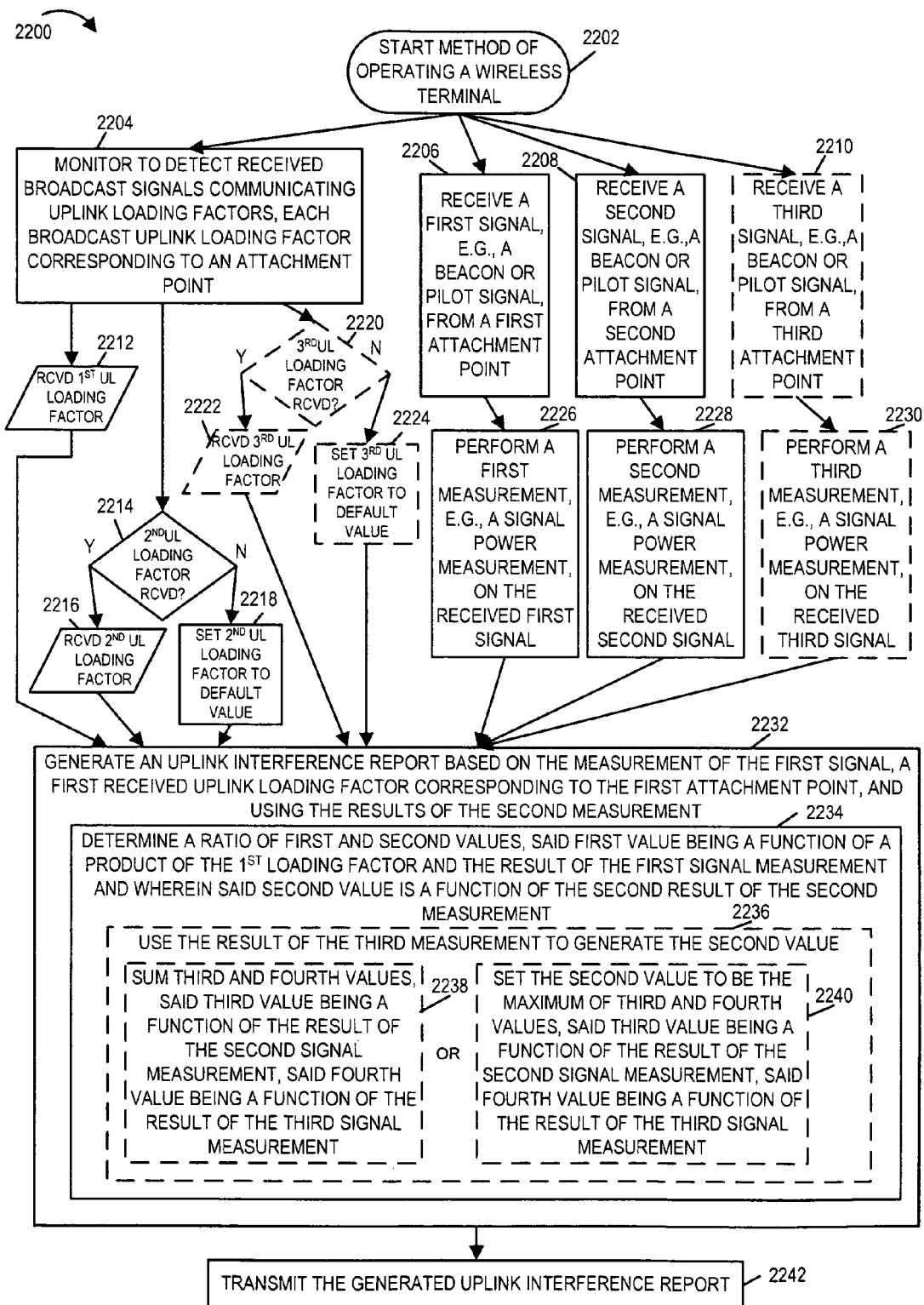


FIGURE 22

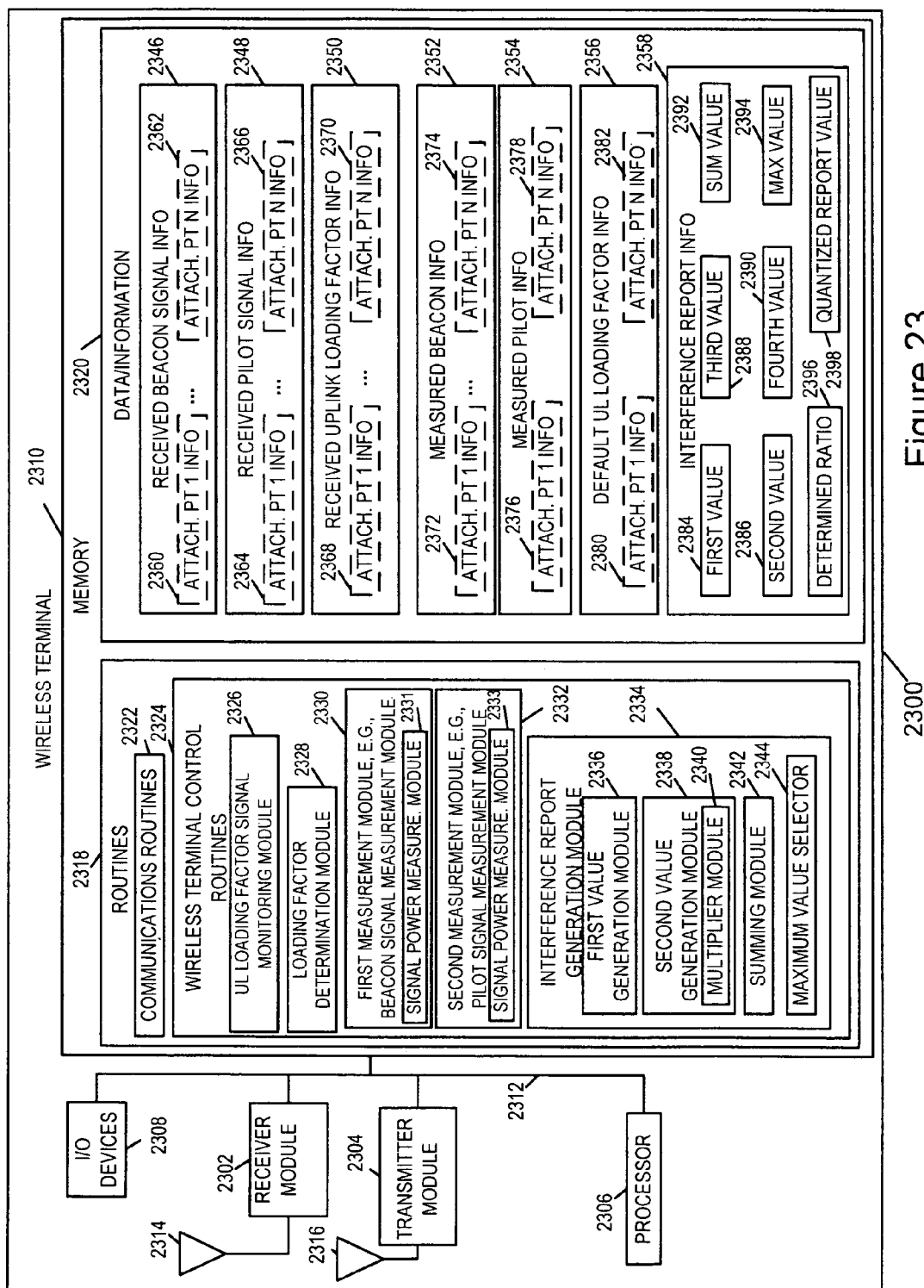


Figure 23

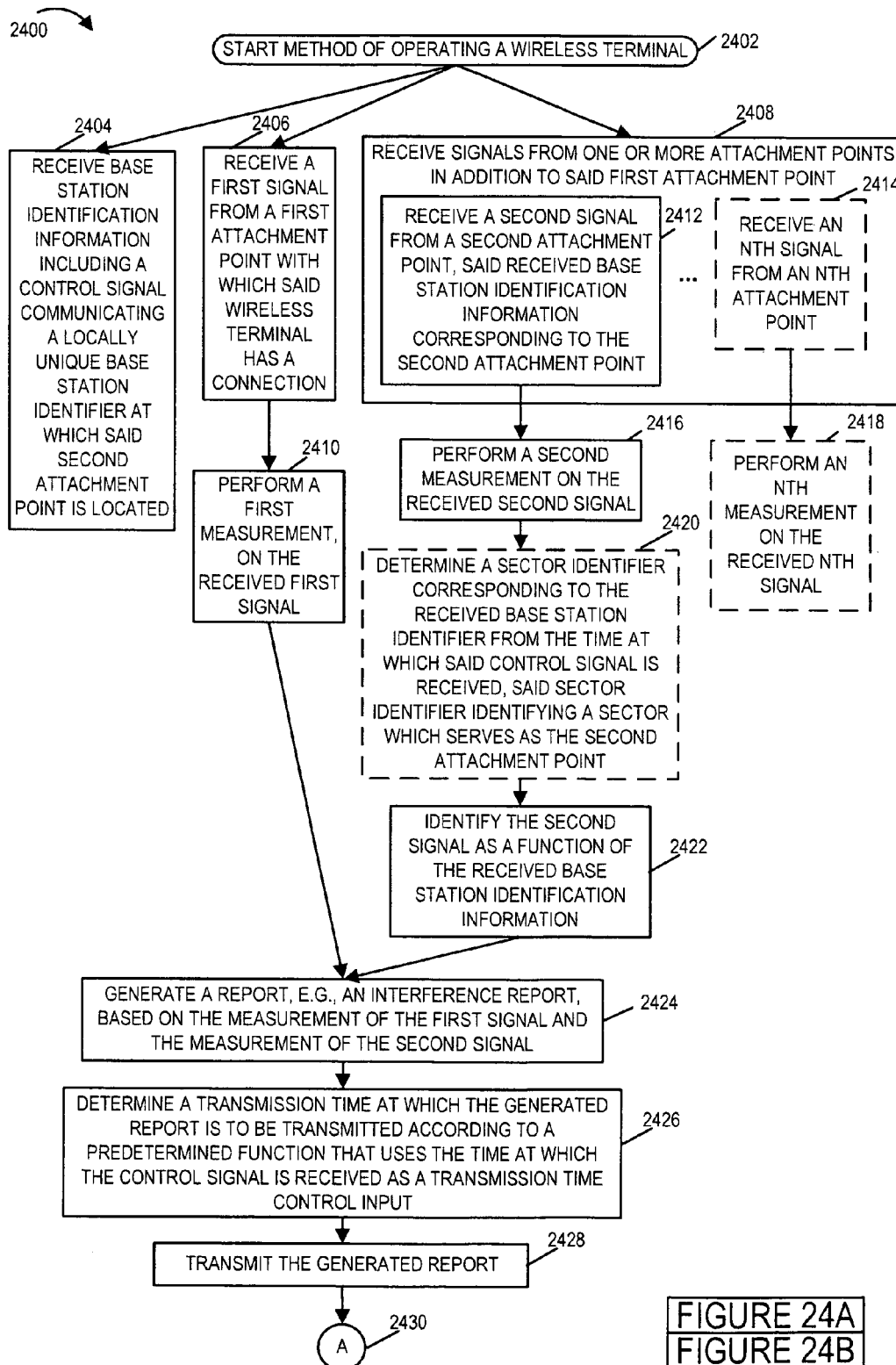


FIGURE 24A

FIGURE 24A
FIGURE 24B
FIGURE 24

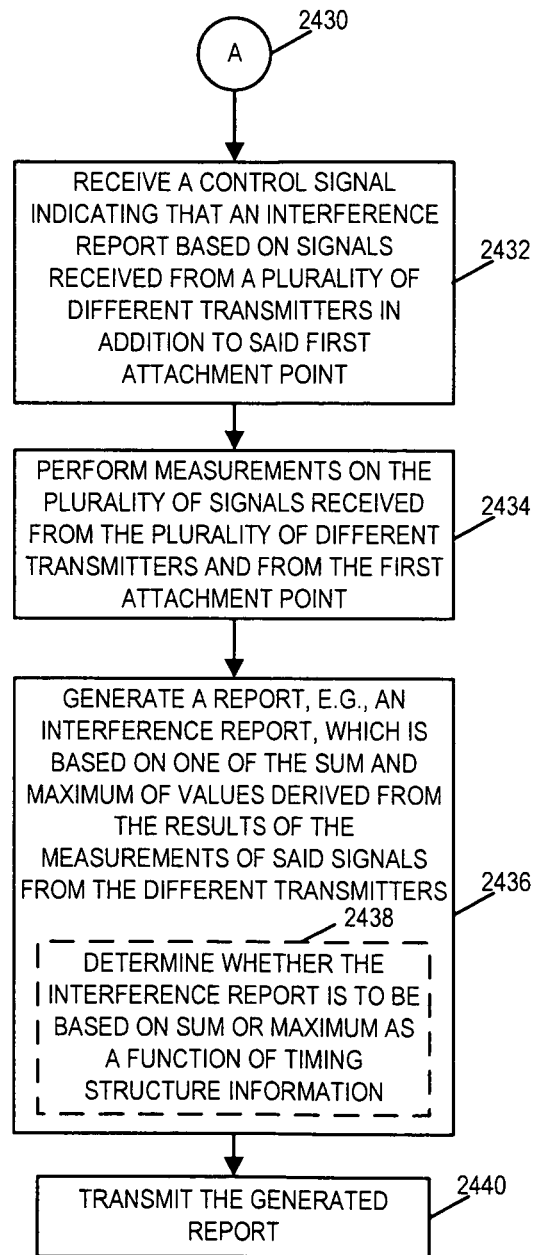


FIGURE 24B

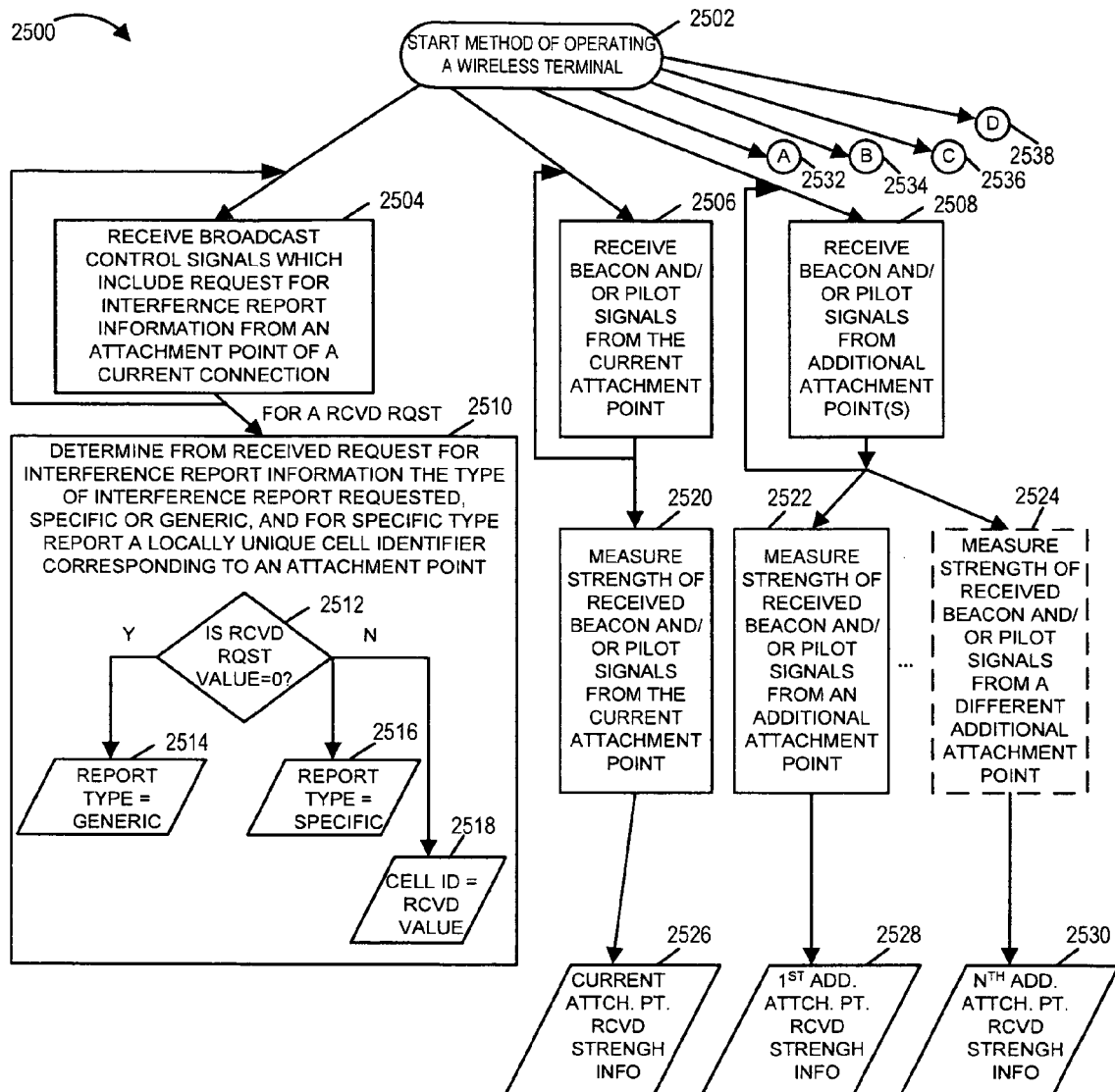


FIGURE 25A

FIGURE 25A

FIGURE 25B

FIGURE 25

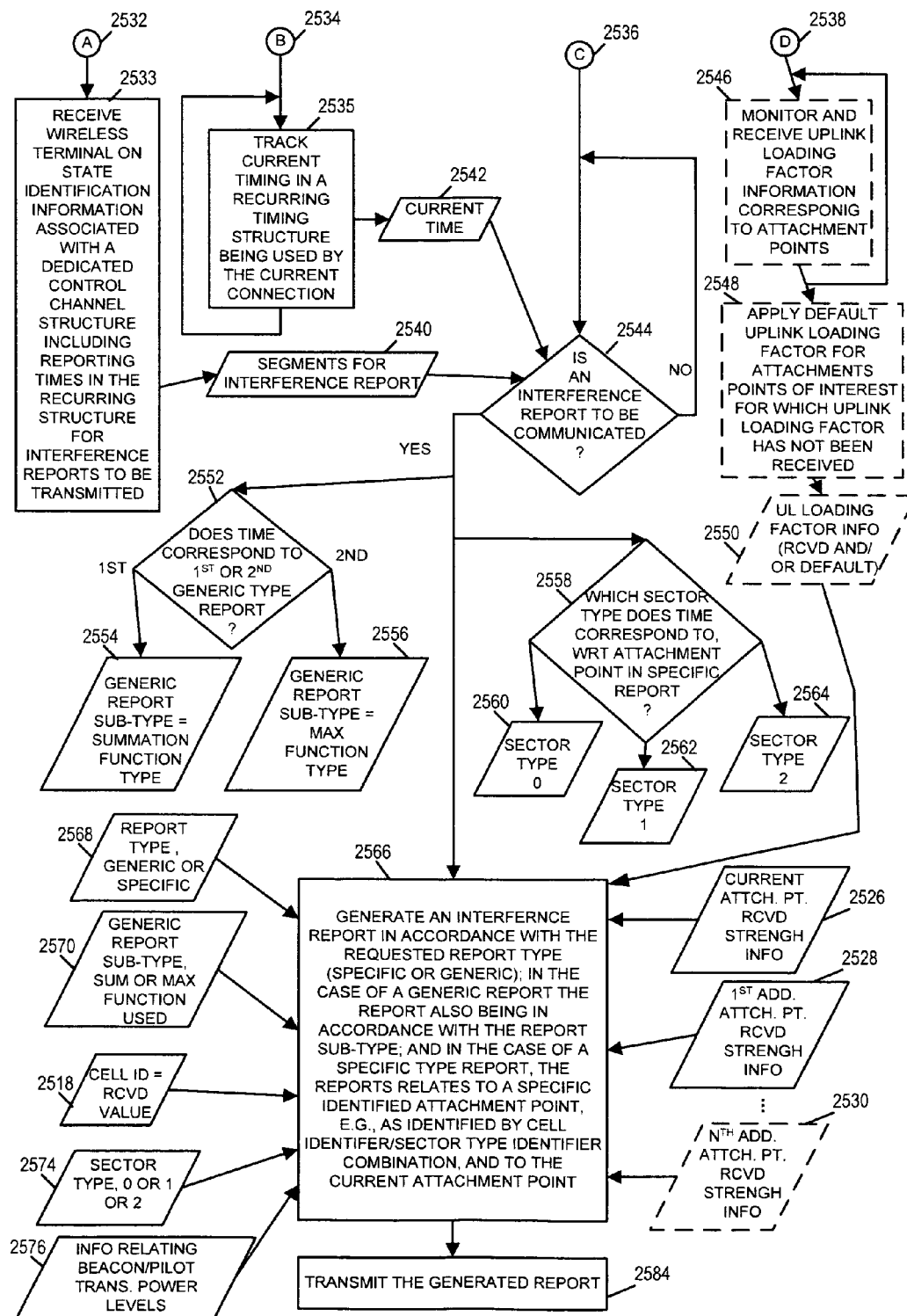


FIGURE 25B

2600 →	2602 →	2604 →	2606 →	2608 →	2610 →	2612 →	2614 →	2616 →
	REPORT COMMUNICATING RATIO OF FIRST TO SECOND VALUE	FIRST VALUE	SECOND VALUE	THIRD VALUE	FOURTH VALUE	1 ST SIGNAL TYPE	2 ND SIGNAL TYPE	3 RD SIGNAL TYPE
2618 →	SPECIFIC INTERFERENCE REPORT USING RCVD BEACON POWER MEASUREMENTS	$b_0 PB_0$	$b_1 PB_1$			BEACON	BEACON	
2620 →	SPECIFIC INTERFERENCE REPORT USING RCVD PILOT POWER MEASUREMENTS	$b_0 PP_0$	$b_1 PP_1$			PILOT	PILOT	
2622 →	SPECIFIC INTERFERENCE REPORT USING RCVD PILOT/BEACON POWER MEASUREMENTS	$Kb_0 PP_0$	$b_1 PB_1$			PILOT	BEACON	
2624 →	1 ST SUB-TYPE GENERIC INTERFERENCE REPORT USING RCVD BEACON POWER MEASUREMENTS	$b_0 PB_0$	$SUM(b_1 PB_1 + b_2 PB_2)$	$b_1 PB_1$	$b_2 PB_2$	BEACON	BEACON	BEACON
2626 →	2 ND SUB-TYPE GENERIC INTERFERENCE REPORT USING RCVD BEACON POWER MEASUREMENTS	$b_0 PB_0$	$MAX(b_1 PB_1, b_2 PB_2)$	$b_1 PB_1$	$b_2 PB_2$	BEACON	BEACON	BEACON
2628 →	1 ST SUB-TYPE GENERIC INTERFERENCE REPORT USING RCVD PILOT POWER MEASUREMENTS	$b_0 PP_0$	$SUM(b_1 PP_1 + b_2 PP_2)$	$b_1 PP_1$	$b_2 PP_2$	PILOT	PILOT	PILOT
2630 →	2 ND SUB-TYPE GENERIC INTERFERENCE REPORT USING RCVD PILOT POWER MEASUREMENTS	$b_0 PP_0$	$MAX(b_1 PP_1, b_2 PP_2)$	$b_1 PP_1$	$b_2 PP_2$	PILOT	PILOT	PILOT
2632 →	1 ST SUB-TYPE GENERIC INTERFERENCE REPORT USING RCVD PILOT AND BEACON POWER MEASUREMENTS	$Kb_0 PP_0$	$SUM(b_1 PB_1 + b_2 PB_2)$	$b_1 PB_1$	$b_2 PB_2$	PILOT	BEACON	BEACON
2634 →	2 ND SUB-TYPE GENERIC INTERFERENCE REPORT USING RCVD PILOT AND BEACON POWER MEASUREMENTS	$Kb_0 PP_0$	$MAX(b_1 PB_1, b_2 PB_2)$	$b_1 PB_1$	$b_2 PB_2$	PILOT	BEACON	BEACON

Figure 26

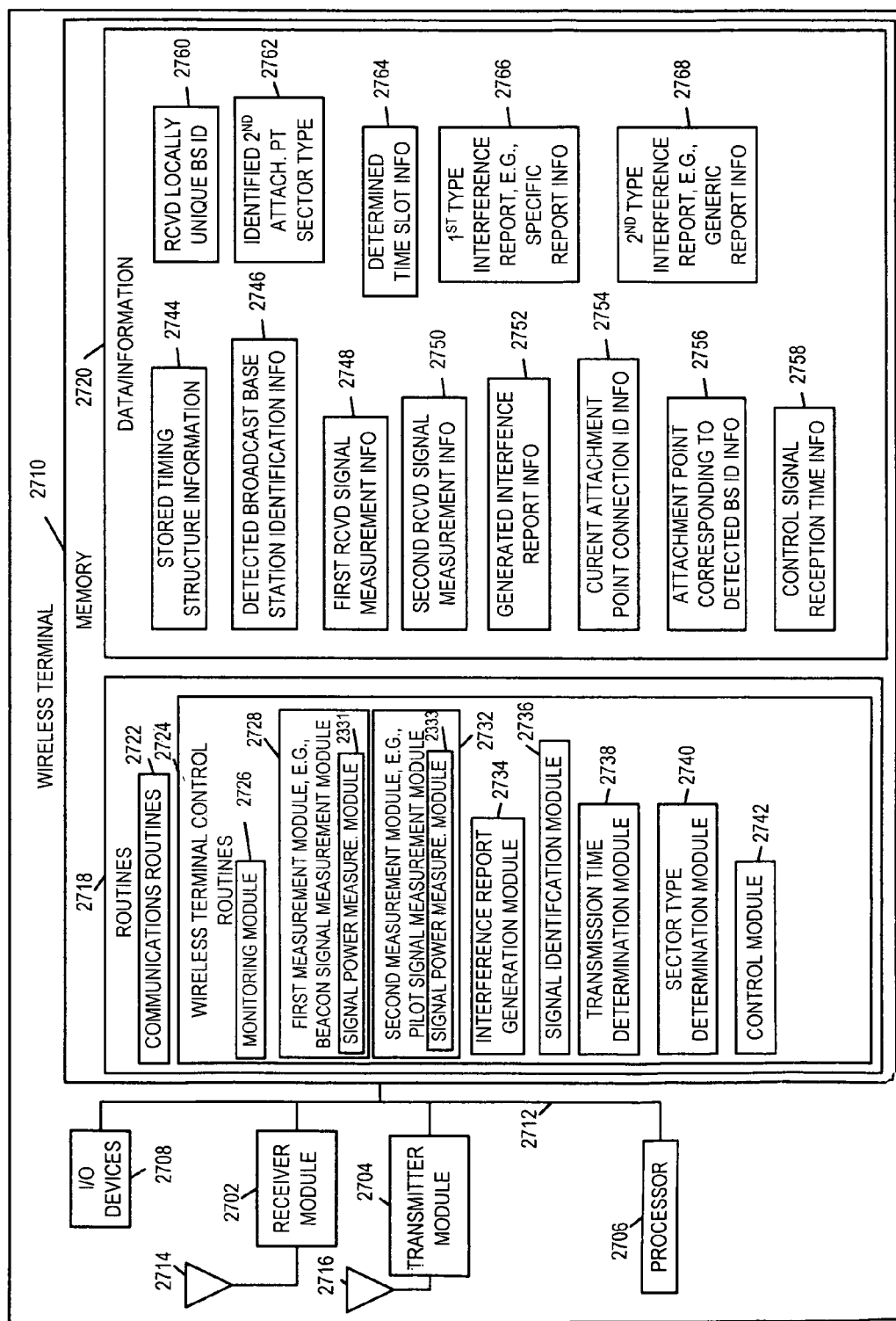


Figure 27

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METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR DETERMINING, COMMUNICATING AND USING INFORMATION WHICH CAN BE USED FOR INTERFERENCE CONTROL

RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present application claims the benefit of the filing date of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 60/792,128, filed on Apr. 14, 2006 titled "METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR DETERMINING, COMMUNICATING AND USING INFORMATION WHICH CAN BE USED FOR INTERFERENCE CONTROL PURPOSES" and is a continuation in part of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 11/251,069 filed Oct. 14, 2005 and is a continuation in part of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 11/302,729 filed Dec. 14, 2005 each of which is hereby expressly incorporated by reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to wireless communications system and, more particularly, to method and apparatus for collecting, measuring, reporting and/or using information which can be used for interference control purposes in a wireless communications system.

BACKGROUND

In a wireless multiple access communication system, wireless terminals contend for system resources in order to communicate with a common receiver over an uplink channel. An example of this situation is the uplink channel in a cellular wireless system, in which wireless terminals transmit to a base station receiver. When a wireless terminal transmits on the uplink channel, it typically causes interference to the entire system, e.g., neighboring base station receivers. Since wireless terminals are distributed, controlling the interference generated by their transmission is a challenging problem.

Many cellular wireless systems adopt simple strategies to control uplink interference. For example CDMA voice systems (e.g., IS-95) power control wireless terminals in such a manner that their signals are received at the base station receiver at approximately the same power. State-of-the-art CDMA systems such as 1xRTT and 1xEV-DO allow for wireless terminals to transmit at different rates, and be received at the base station at different powers. However, interference is controlled in a distributed manner which lowers the overall level of interference without precisely controlling those wireless terminals that are the worst sources of interference in the system.

This existing body of interference-control approaches limits the uplink capacity of wireless systems.

It would be useful if a base station could be provided with information that could be used in determining the amount of signal interference that will be created in neighboring cells and/or sectors when a transmission occurs and/or determining the amount of interference a wireless terminal is likely to encounter due to signal interference. It would be particularly desirable if information which can be used for interference determination purposes could be supplied by one or more wireless terminals to a base station.

Loading affects interference considerations in a wireless communications system. It would be beneficial if wireless terminals and/or base stations communicated such informa-

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tion. It would also be beneficial if wireless terminals and/or base stations utilized such loading information in determining interference levels.

Various received different types of downlink broadcast reference signals may be usable at different times to a wireless terminal which is to communicate interference information to a base station. It would be beneficial if methods and apparatus supported utilizing different types of broadcast reference signals in determining interference information and/or tailoring the reporting calculations to accommodate a current set of conditions.

In communicating interference information from a wireless terminal to a base station, one type of reporting may be better suited at one particular time than at another particular time. Methods and apparatus that accommodate a variety of different interference report types would be beneficial. As variety increases, control signaling overhead typically increases to support and communicate the potential options available. It would be beneficial if methods and apparatus were directed to keeping signaling overhead relatively low, yet while supporting a plurality of interference reporting variations.

SUMMARY

Various embodiments are directed to methods and apparatus for collecting, measuring, reporting and/or using information which can be used for interference control purposes.

In various embodiments, a wireless terminal receives a broadcast uplink interference report request conveying a requested report type and/or base station identification information, e.g., a locally unique base station identifier such as a locally unique cell identifier value. For example, in one exemplary embodiment a base station attachment point broadcasts a report request intended for a plurality of wireless terminals using the base station attachment point as their current serving attachment point.

The wireless terminal also receives and measures broadcast reference signals, e.g., beacon and/or pilot signals, transmitted from a plurality of base station attachment points. The beacon signals may be narrowband signals, e.g., a single tone. The beacon signals may have a duration of one, two or more symbol transmission time periods, e.g., OFDM symbol transmission time periods. However, other types of beacon signals may be used and the particular type of beacon signal is not critical to the invention.

Different types of requested reports include specific type interference reports, sometimes referred to as special reports, and generic type interference reports. In one exemplary embodiment if the interference report request value is a first value, e.g., 0, the request is for a generic report, and if the report request value is within a set of predetermined values exclusive of the first value, e.g., a set of positive integer values, the request is for a specific report and the selected base station attachment point to be used in the specific report has a base station identifier corresponding to the report request value.

Specific type interference reports relate a current serving connection base station attachment point to a selected base station attachment point corresponding to the received base station identifier. Generic type interference reports relate a current serving base station connection attachment point to other unspecified base station attachment points whose broadcast reference signals have been detected by the wireless terminal. In some embodiments, for a generic type interference report, the current serving base station attachment point to which the report is directed does not know with

certainty which particular base station attachment point or points were used in generating the report. Sub-types of generic reports include reports utilizing a summation function to generate the report and reports utilizing a maximum function to generate the report.

In some embodiments, timing information is sometimes used to determine report sub-type. For example, in one exemplary embodiment, the recurring timing structure is partitioned into times during which a generic report, when transmitted, is a summation function type report and times during which a generic report, when transmitted, is a maximum function type report. For example report sub-types, in some embodiments, alternate between successive beacon slots in a recurring predetermined timing structure. This predetermined timing structure facilitates generic reports of, e.g., two sub-types. The timing structure to report sub-type mapping relationship is known, in some embodiments, to both the wireless terminal and the current serving sector attachment point and thus does not require additional overhead control signaling to distinguish between the two report sub-types, thus freeing the valuable air link resource for other purposes, e.g., to be used to communicate user data.

In some embodiments, e.g., some embodiments employing at least some multi-sector cells, timing information is used to determine the sector type of the selected attachment point for a requested specific type interference report. For example in one exemplary embodiment, with three different sector types, reporting of specific type reports is structured such that the sector type of the selected base station sector attachment point alternates within a predetermined recurring timing structure. In some such embodiments, a wireless terminal determines the selected attachment point to be used in the request specific type report by combining the received base station identifier from the report request with a sector type determined by the time at which the request was received by the wireless terminal.

As described above, in various embodiments, the base station identifier communicated in the downlink broadcast report request signal is a locally unique identifier, e.g., a locally unique cell identifier. In addition, the sector identifier is, in some embodiments, communicated via request signal timing. In various, embodiments, the carrier or tone block identifier is understood, e.g., it is the same as the one being used by the current serving sector attachment point, and it need not be specifically signaled in the report request. Thus overhead control signaling identifying the selected attachment point to be used in the specific request interference report is reduced from what it would otherwise need to be if the identifier conveyed a system unique base station attachment point identifier. By using fewer bits to communicate the request, valuable air link resources are conserved for other purposes, e.g., to be used to convey user data.

The wireless terminal generates the requested report, e.g., one of a specific report, a summation function type generic report and a maximum function type generic report and transmits the generated report to the current connection attachment point which issued the request, e.g., via uplink dedicated control channel segment allocated to the wireless terminal for its exclusive use.

While various embodiments have been discussed in the summary above, it should be appreciated that not necessarily all embodiments include the same features and some of the features described above are not necessary but can be desirable in some embodiments. Numerous additional features,

embodiments and benefits of the present invention are discussed in the detailed description which follows.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

FIG. 1 is a drawing of an exemplary wireless communications system implemented in accordance with various embodiments.

FIG. 2 shows an example of a base station implemented in accordance with various embodiments.

FIG. 3 illustrates a wireless terminal implemented in accordance with various embodiments.

FIG. 4 illustrates a system in which a wireless terminal is connected to a base station sector and measures the relative gains associated with a plurality of interfering base stations in accordance with various embodiments.

FIG. 5 is a flow chart illustrating a method of measuring signal energy, determining gains and providing interference reports in accordance with various embodiments.

FIG. 6 illustrates an uplink traffic channel and segments included therein.

FIG. 7 illustrates assignments which can be used by a base station to assign uplink traffic channel segments to a wireless terminal.

FIG. 8 shows an exemplary communication system implemented in accordance with various embodiments.

FIG. 9 includes exemplary power scaling factor table, implemented in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 10 includes an exemplary uplink loading factor table used in various embodiments in the generation of interference reports.

FIG. 11 is a table illustrating an exemplary format for an exemplary interference report, e.g., a beacon ratio report, in accordance with various embodiments.

FIG. 12 is a drawing of an exemplary orthogonal frequency division multiplexing (OFDM) wireless communications system, e.g., an OFDM spread spectrum multiple access wireless communications system, implemented in accordance with various embodiments.

FIG. 13 illustrates the exemplary system of FIG. 12, and provides additional detail corresponding to each of the base station sectors to illustrate various features.

FIG. 14 is a drawing of the exemplary system described in FIGS. 12 and 13, which includes exemplary signaling received and processed by a wireless terminal for the purposes of illustrating exemplary beacon ratio report methods in accordance with various embodiments.

FIG. 15 is a drawing of the exemplary system, described in FIGS. 12 and 13, which includes exemplary signaling received and processed by a wireless terminal for the purposes of illustrating exemplary beacon ratio report methods in accordance with various embodiments.

FIG. 16 is a drawing of the exemplary system, described in FIGS. 12 and 13, which includes exemplary signaling received and processed by a wireless terminal for the purposes of illustrating exemplary beacon ratio report methods in accordance with various embodiments.

FIG. 17, comprising the combination of FIG. 17A, FIG. 17B, FIG. 17C, and FIG. 17D is a flowchart of an exemplary method of operating a wireless terminal, e.g., mobile node, in accordance with various embodiments.

FIG. 18 is a drawing of exemplary timing structure information and corresponding interference reporting information, e.g., beacon ratio report reporting information, for an exemplary embodiment.

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FIG. 19 illustrates in drawing, for an exemplary embodiment, exemplary beacon ratio report request downlink signaling and exemplary uplink beacon ratio report signaling.

FIG. 20 is a drawing of an exemplary communications system implemented in accordance with various embodiments.

FIG. 21 is a drawing illustrating exemplary downlink control signaling and uplink interference reporting, e.g., beacon ratio reporting, corresponding to the exemplary system of FIG. 20.

FIG. 22 is a drawing of a flowchart of an exemplary method of operating a wireless terminal in accordance with various embodiments.

FIG. 23 is a drawing of an exemplary wireless terminal implemented in accordance with various embodiments.

FIG. 24 comprising the combination of FIG. 24A and FIG. 24B is a flowchart of an exemplary method of operating a wireless terminal.

FIG. 25, comprising the combination of FIG. 25A and FIG. 25B is a flowchart of an exemplary method of operating a wireless terminal in accordance with various embodiments.

FIG. 26 is a drawing of a table illustrating exemplary interference report signal usage and report computations in accordance with various embodiments.

FIG. 27 is a drawing of an exemplary wireless terminal implemented in accordance with various embodiments.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Methods and apparatus for collecting, reporting and using information which can be used for interference control purposes in accordance with various embodiments will now be described. The methods and apparatus of the present invention are well suited for use with wireless multiple access, e.g., multi-user, communications systems. Such systems may be implemented as OFDM systems, CDMA systems or other types of wireless systems where signal interference from transmission from one or more transmitters, e.g., adjacent base stations, is of concern.

An exemplary embodiment of the invention is described below in the context of a cellular wireless data communication system 100 of the present invention shown in FIG. 1. While an exemplary cellular wireless system is used for purposes of explaining the invention, the invention is broader in scope than the example and can be applied in general to many other wireless communication systems as well.

In a wireless data communication system, the air link resource generally includes bandwidth, time or code. The air link resource that transports user data and/or voice traffic is called the traffic channel. Data is communicated over the traffic channel in traffic channel segments (traffic segments for short). Traffic segments may serve as the basic or minimum units of the available traffic channel resources. Downlink traffic segments transport data traffic from the base station to the wireless terminals, while uplink traffic segments transport data traffic from the wireless terminals to the base station. One exemplary system in which the present invention may be used is the spread spectrum OFDM (orthogonal frequency division multiplexing) multiple-access system in which, a traffic segment includes a number of frequency tones defined over a finite time interval.

FIG. 1 is an illustration of an exemplary wireless communications system 100, implemented in accordance with various embodiments. Exemplary wireless communications system 100 includes a plurality of base stations (BSs): base station 1 102, base station M 114. Cell 1 104 is the wireless coverage area for base station 1 102. BS 1 102 communicates

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with a plurality of wireless terminals (WTs): WT(1) 106, WT(N) 108 located within cell 1 104. WT(1) 106, WT(N) 108 are coupled to BS 1 102 via wireless links 110, 112, respectively. Similarly, Cell M 116 is the wireless coverage area for base station M 114. BS M 114 communicates with a plurality of wireless terminals (WTs): WT(1') 118, WT(N') 120 located within cell M 116. WT(1') 118, WT(N') 120 are coupled to BS M 114 via wireless links 122, 124, respectively. WTs (106, 108, 118, 120) may be mobile and/or stationary wireless communication devices. Mobile WTs, sometimes referred to as mobile nodes (MNs), may move throughout the system 100 and may communicate with the base station corresponding to the cell in which they are located. Region 134 is a boundary region between cell 1 104 and cell M 116. In the system 100, the cells are shown as single sector cells. Multi-sectors cells are also possible and are supported. The transmitter of a base station sector can be identified based on transmitted information, e.g., beacon signals, which communicate a base station identifier and/or sector identifier.

Network node 126 is coupled to BS 1 102 and BS M 114 via network links 128, 130, respectively. Network node 126 is also coupled to other network nodes/Internet via network link 132. Network links 128, 130, 132 may be, e.g., fiber optic links. Network node 126, e.g., a router node, provides connectivity for WTs, e.g., WT(1) 106 to other nodes, e.g., other base stations, AAA server nodes, Home agents nodes, communication peers, e.g., WT(N'), 120, etc., located outside its currently located cell, e.g., cell 1 104.

FIG. 2 illustrates an exemplary base station 200, implemented in accordance with various embodiments. Exemplary BS 200 may be a more detailed representation of any of the BSs, BS 1 102, BS M 114 of FIG. 1. BS 200 includes a receiver 202, a transmitter 204, a processor, e.g., CPU, 206, an I/O interface 208, I/O devices 210, and a memory 212 coupled together via a bus 214 over which the various elements may interchange data and information. In addition, the base station 200 includes a receiver antenna 216 which is coupled to the receiver 202 and a transmitter antenna 218 which is coupled to transmitter 204. Transmitter antenna 218 is used for transmitting information, e.g., downlink traffic channel signals, beacon signals, pilot signals, assignment signals, interference report request messages, interference control indicator signals, etc., from BS 200 to WTs 300 (see FIG. 3) while receiver antenna 216 is used for receiving information, e.g., uplink traffic channel signals, WT requests for resources, WT interference reports, etc., from WTs 300.

The memory 212 includes routines 220 and data/information 224. The processor 206 executes the routines 220 and uses the data/information 224 stored in memory 212 to control the overall operation of the base station 200 and implement methods. I/O devices 210, e.g., displays, printers, keyboards, etc., display system information to a base station administrator and receive control and/or management input from the administrator. I/O interface 208 couples the base station 200 to a computer network, other network nodes, other base stations 200, and/or the Internet. Thus, via I/O interface 208 base stations 200 may exchange customer information and other data as well as synchronize the transmission of signals to WTs 300 if desired. In addition I/O interface 208 provides a high speed connection to the Internet allowing WT 300 users to receive and/or transmit information over the Internet via the base station 300. Receiver 202 processes signals received via receiver antenna 216 and extracts from the received signals the information content included therein. The extracted information, e.g., data and channel interference report information, is communicated to the processor 206 and stored in memory 212 via bus 214. Transmitter 204 transmits

information, e.g., data, beacon signals, pilot signals, assignment signals, interference report request messages, interference control indicator signals, to WTs **300** via antenna **218**.

As mentioned above, the processor **206** controls the operation of the base station **200** under direction of routines **220** stored in memory **212**. Routines **220** include communications routines **226**, and base station control routines **228**. The base station control routines **228** include a scheduler **230**, a downlink broadcast signaling module **232**, a WT report processing module **234**, a report request module **236**, and an interference indicator module **238**. The report request module **236** can generate requests for specific interference reports concerning a particular BS sector identified in the report request. Generated report requests are transmitted to one or more wireless terminals when the BS seeks interference information at a time other than that provided for by a predetermined or fixed reporting schedule. Data/Information **224** includes downlink broadcast reference signal information **240**, wireless terminal data/information **241**, uplink traffic channel information **246**, interference report request information messages **248**, and interference control indicator signals **250**.

Downlink broadcast reference signal information **240** includes beacon signal information **252**, pilot signal information **254**, and assignment signal information **256**. Beacon signals are relatively high power OFDM broadcast signals in which the transmitter power is concentrated on one or a few tones for a short duration, e.g., two symbol times. Beacon signal information **252** includes identification information **258** and power level information **260**. Beacon identification information **258** may include information used to identify and associate the beacon signal with specific BS **200**, e.g., a specific tone or set of tones which comprise the beacon signal at a specific time in a repetitive downlink transmission interval or cycle. Beacon power level information **260** includes information defining the power level at which the beacon signal is transmitted. Pilot signals may include known signals broadcast to WTs at moderately high power levels, e.g., above ordinary signaling levels, which are typically used for identifying a base station, synchronizing with a base station, and obtaining a channel estimate. Pilot signal information **254** includes identification information **262** and power level information **264**. Pilot identification information **262** includes information used to identify and associate the pilot signals with specific base station **200**. Pilot power level information **264** includes information defining the power level at which the pilot signals are transmitted. Various signals providing information about signal transmission power levels, e.g., pilot and beacon signal transmission pilot levels, may be broadcast for use by wireless terminals in determining gain ratios and/or interference reports. Assignment signals includes broadcast uplink and downlink traffic channel segment assignment signals transmitted typically at power levels above ordinary signaling levels so as to reach WTs within its cell which have poor channel quality conditions. Assignment signaling information **256** includes identification information **266** and power level information **268**. Assignment signaling identification information **266** includes information associating specific tones at specific times in the downlink timing cycle with assignments for the specific BS **200**. Assignment power level information **268** includes information defining the power level at which the assignment signals are transmitted.

Wireless terminal data/information **241** includes a plurality of sets of WT data/information, WT **1** information **242**, WT **N** info **244**. WT **1** information **242** includes data **270**, terminal identification information **272**, interference cost report information **274**, requested uplink traffic segments **276**, and assigned uplink traffic segments **278**. Data **270**

includes user data associated with WT **1**, e.g., data and information received from WT **1** intended to be communicated by BS **200** either directly or indirectly to a peer node of WT **1**, e.g., WT **N**, in which WT **1** is participating in a communications session. Data **270** also includes received data and information originally sourced from a peer node of WT **1**, e.g., WT **N**. Terminal identification information **272** includes a BS assigned identifier associating WT **1** to the BS and used by the BS to identify WT **1**. Interference cost report information **274** includes information which has been forwarded in a feedback report from WT **1** to BS **200** identifying interference costs of WT **1** transmitting uplink signaling to the communications system. Requested uplink traffic segments **276** include requests from WT **1** for uplink traffic segments which are allocated by the BS scheduler **230**, e.g., number, type, and/or time constraint information. Assigned uplink traffic segments **278** includes information identifying the uplink traffic segments which have been assigned by the scheduler **230** to WT **1**.

Uplink traffic channel information **246** includes a plurality of uplink traffic channel segment information sets including information on the segments that may be assigned by BS scheduler **230** to WTs requesting uplink air link resources. Uplink traffic channel information **246** includes channel segment **1** information **280** and channel segment **N** information **282**. Channel segment **1** information **280** includes type information **284**, power level information **286**, definition information **288**, and assignment information **290**. Type information **284** includes information defining the characteristics of the segment **1**, e.g., the frequency and time extent of the segment. For example, the BS may support multiple types of uplink segments, e.g., a segment with a large bandwidth but a short time durations and a segment with a small bandwidth but a long time duration. Power level information **286** includes information defining the specified power level at which the WT is to transmit when using uplink segment **1**. Definition information **288** includes information defining specific frequencies or tones and specific times which constitute uplink traffic channel segment **1**. Assignment information **290** includes assignment information associated with uplink traffic segment **1**, e.g., the identifier of the WT being assigned the uplink traffic channel segment **1**, a coding and/or a modulation scheme to be used in uplink traffic channel segment **1**.

Interference report request information messages **248**, used in some embodiments, are messages to be transmitted, e.g., as a broadcast messages or as messages directed to specific WTs. The BS **200** may transmit to WTs **300** on a common control channel instructing the WTs to determine and report the interference information with respect to a particular base station transmitter, e.g., base station sector transmitter, in the communications system. Interference report request information messages **248** normally include base station transmitter identification information **292** which identifies the particular base station sector being currently designated for the interference report. As discussed above, some base stations are implemented as single sector base stations. Over time BS **200** may change base station identification information **292** to correspond to each of the neighboring transmitters and thereby obtain interference information about multiple neighbors.

Interference control indicator signals **250**, used in some embodiments, e.g., where at least some of the uplink traffic segments are not explicitly assigned by the base station, are signals broadcast by BS **200** to WTs **300** to control, in terms of interference, which WTs may use uplink traffic segments. For example, a multi-level variable may be used where each level indicates how tightly the BS **200** would like to control

interference. WTs 300 which receive this signal can use this signal in combination with their own measured interference to determine whether or not the WT 300 is allowed to use the uplink traffic segments being controlled.

Communication routines 226 implement the various communications protocols used by the BS 200 and control overall transmission of user data. Base station control routines 228 control the operation of the I/O devices 210, I/O interface 208, receiver 202, transmitter 204, and controls the operation of the BS 200 to implement the methods of the present invention. Scheduler 230 allocates uplink traffic segments under its control to WTs 300 based upon a number of constraints: power requirement of the segment, transmit power capacity of the WT, and interference cost to the system. Thus, the scheduler 230 may, and often does, use information from received interference reports when scheduling downlink transmissions. Downlink broadcast signaling module 232 uses the data/information 224 including the downlink broadcast reference signal information 240 to generate and transmit broadcast signals such as beacons, pilot signals, assignments signals, and/or other common control signal transmitted at known power levels which may be used by WTs 300 in determining downlink channel quality and uplink interference levels. WT interference report processing module 234 uses the data/information 224 including the interference cost report information 274 obtained from the WTs 300 to process, correlate, and forward uplink interference information to the scheduler 230. The report request module 236, used in some embodiments, generates a sequence of interference report request messages 248 to request a sequence of uplink interference reports, each report corresponding to one of its adjacent base stations. Interference indicator module 238, used in some embodiments, generates (multi-level) interference control indicator signals 250 which are transmitted to the WTs 300 to control access to some uplink traffic channel segments.

FIG. 3 illustrates an exemplary wireless terminal 300, implemented in accordance with various embodiments. Exemplary wireless terminal 300 may be a more detailed representation of any of the WTs 106, 108, 118, 120 of exemplary system wireless communication system 100 of FIG. 1. WT 300 includes a receiver 302, a transmitter 304, I/O devices 310, a processor 306, e.g., a CPU, and a memory 312 coupled together via bus 314 over which the various elements may interchange data and information. Receiver 302 is coupled to antenna 316; transmitter 304 is coupled to antenna 318.

Downlink signals transmitted from BS 200 are received through antenna 316, and processed by receiver 302. Transmitter 304 transmits uplink signals through antenna 318 to BS 200. Uplink signals includes, e.g., uplink traffic channel signals and interference cost reports. I/O devices 310 include user interface devices such as, e.g., microphones, speakers, video cameras, video displays, keyboard, printers, data terminal displays, etc. I/O devices 310 may be used to interface with the operator of WT 300, e.g., to allow the operator to enter user data, voice, and/or video directed to a peer node and allow the operator to view user data, voice, and/or video communicated from a peer node, e.g., another WT 300.

Memory 312 includes routines 320 and data/information 322. Processor 306 executes the routines 320 and uses the data/information 322 in memory 312 to control the basic operation of the WT 300 and to implement methods. Routines 320 include communications routine 324 and WT control routines 326. WT control routines 326 include a reference signal processing module 332, an interference cost module 334, a report format selection module 329, and a scheduling

decision module 330. Reference signal processing module 332 includes an identification module 336, a received power measurement module 338, and a channel gain ratio calculation module 340. Interference cost module 334 includes a filtering module 342, a determination module 344, and a report generation module 346. The report generation module 346 includes a quantization module 348.

Data/information 322 includes downlink broadcast reference signal information 349, wireless terminal data/information 352, uplink traffic channel information 354, received interference report request information message 356, received interference control indicator signal 358, and received broadcast reference signals 353.

Downlink broadcast reference signal information 349 includes a plurality of downlink broadcast reference signal information sets, base station 1 downlink broadcast reference signal information 350, base station M downlink broadcast reference signal information 351. BS 1 downlink broadcast reference signal information includes beacon signal information 360, pilot signal information 362, and assignment signaling information 364. Beacon signal information 360 includes identification information 366, e.g., BS identifier and sector identifier information, and power level information 368. Pilot signal information 362 includes identification information 370 and power level information 372. Assignment signaling information 364 includes identification information 374 and power level information 376.

Wireless terminal data/information 352 includes data 382, terminal identification information 384, interference cost report information 386, requested uplink traffic segments 388, and assigned uplink traffic segments 390.

Uplink traffic channel information 354 includes a plurality of uplink traffic channel information sets, channel 1 information 391, channel N information 392. Channel 1 information 391 includes type information 393, power level information 394, definition information 395, and assignment information 396. The scheduling module 330 controls the scheduling of the transmission interference reports, e.g., according to a predetermined schedule, BS requested interference reports in response to received report requests, and user data.

Received interference report request information message 356 includes a base station identifier 397.

FIG. 4 illustrates an exemplary system 400 implemented in accordance with various embodiments which will be used to explain various features of the invention. The system 400 includes first, second and third cells 404, 406, 408 which neighbor each other. The first cell 404 includes a first base station including a first base station sector transmitter (BSS₀) 410 and a wireless terminal 420 which is connected to BSS₀ 410. The second cell 406 includes a second base station including a second base station sector transmitter (BSS₁) 412. The third cell 408 includes a third station base station including a third base station sector transmitter (BSS₂) 414. As can be seen, signals transmitted between BSS₀ and the WT 420 are subjected to a channel gain g_0 . Signals transmitted between BSS₁ and the WT 420 are subjected to a channel gain g_1 . Signals transmitted between BSS₂ and the WT 420 are subjected to a channel gain g_2 .

Assume that the WT 420 is connected to BSS₀ 410 using BSS₀ 410 as its attachment point. A gain ratio G_i =ratio of the channel gain from the BSS_i to the WT 420 to the channel gain from the BSS₀ to the WT 420. That is:

$$G_i = g_i / g_0$$

Assuming that beacon signals are transmitted from the first, second and third BSSs at the same power level, the

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received power (PB) of the beacon signals received from the base stations BSS₀, BSS₁, BSS₂ can be used to determine the gain ratio's as follows:

$$G_0 = g_0/g_0 = 1 = PB_0/PB_0$$

$$G_1 = g_1/g_0 = PB_1/PB_0$$

$$G_2 = g_2/g_0 = PB_2/PB_0$$

The following discussion will focus on the operation of the uplink traffic channel in accordance with various embodiments. In the exemplary system, the traffic segments that constitute the uplink traffic channel may be defined over different frequency and time extents in order to suit a broad class of wireless terminals that are operating over a diverse set of wireless channels and with different device constraints. FIG. 6 is a graph 100A of frequency on the vertical axis 102A vs time on the horizontal axis 104A. FIG. 6 illustrates two kinds of traffic segments in the uplink traffic channel. Traffic segment denoted A 106A occupies twice the frequency extent of the traffic segment denoted B 108A. The traffic segments in the uplink traffic channel can be shared dynamically among the wireless terminals that are communicating with the base station. A scheduling module that is part of the base station can rapidly assign the traffic channel segments to different users according to their traffic needs, device constraints and channel conditions, which may be time varying in general. The uplink traffic channel is thus effectively shared and dynamically allocated among different users on a segment-by-segment basis. The dynamic allocation of traffic segments is illustrated in FIG. 6 in which segment A is assigned to user #1 by the base station scheduler and segment B is assigned to user #2.

In the exemplary system, the assignment information of traffic channel segments is transported in the assignment channel, which includes a series of assignment segments. Each traffic segment is associated with a corresponding unique assignment segment that conveys the assignment information that may include the identifier of the wireless terminal and also the coding and modulation scheme to be used in that traffic segment. FIG. 7 is a graph 200A of frequency on the vertical axis 202A vs. time on the horizontal axis 204A. FIG. 7 shows two assignment segments, A' 206A and B' 208A, which convey the assignment information of the uplink traffic segments A 210A and B 212A, respectively. The assignment channel is a shared channel resource. The wireless terminals receive the assignment information conveyed in the assignment channel and then transmit on the uplink traffic channel segments according to the assignment information.

The base station scheduler 230 allocates traffic segments based on a number of considerations. One constraint is that the transmit power requirement of the traffic channel should not exceed the transmit power capability of the wireless terminal. Hence, wireless terminals that are operating over weaker uplink channels may be allocated traffic segments that occupy a narrower frequency extent in the exemplary system in order that the instantaneous power requirements are not severely constraining. Similarly, wireless terminals that generate a greater amount of interference may also be allocated traffic segments that include a smaller frequency extent in order to reduce the impact of the instantaneous interference generated by them. The total interference is controlled by scheduling the transmission of the wireless terminals on the basis of their interference costs to the system, which are defined in the following.

The wireless terminals determine their interference costs to the system from the received downlink broadcast signals. In one embodiment, the wireless terminals report their interference costs to the base station, in the form of interference

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reports, which then makes uplink scheduling decisions to control uplink interference. In another embodiment, the base station broadcasts an interference control indicator, and the wireless terminals compare their interference costs with the received indicator to determine their uplink transmission resources in an appropriate manner, e.g., mobiles have uplink transmission costs below a level indicated by the control indicator may transmit while mobiles with interference costs exceeding the cost level indicated by the control indicator will refrain from transmitting.

Exemplary Interference costs which may be considered will now be described.

Consider a wireless terminal labeled m₀. Assume the wireless terminal is connected to base station B₀. Denote G_{0,k} the channel gain between this wireless terminal and base station B_k, for k=0, 1, . . . , N-1, where N is the total number of base stations in the system.

In the exemplary system, the amount of power transmitted by wireless terminal m₀ on the uplink traffic segment is usually a function of the condition of the wireless channel from wireless terminal m₀ to the base station B₀, the frequency extent, and the choice of code rate on the traffic segment. The frequency extent of the segment and the choice of code rate determine the transmit power used by the mobile, which is the quantity that directly causes interference. Assume that the SNR required for the base station receiver to decode the traffic segment necessitates a receive power P_R per tone of the traffic segment (which is a function of the choice of code rate and the channel conditions over which the mobile terminal is operating). This is related to the transmit power per tone of the wireless terminal, P_T, as follows:

$$P_R = P_T G_{0,0}$$

The interference per tone produced by this wireless terminal at neighboring base station k can then be computed as follows:

$$P_{I,k} = P_T G_{0,k} = P_R \frac{G_{0,k}}{G_{0,0}}$$

$$\text{Denote } r_{0,k} = \frac{G_{0,k}}{G_{0,0}}.$$

From this expression, it is clear that the interference generated by wireless terminal m₀ at base station B_k is proportional to its transmit power as well as the ratio of the channel gains to base station k and to its own base station. Hence, r_{0,k} is called the interference cost of wireless terminal m₀ to base station B_k.

Generalizing this concept, the total interference per tone produced by a wireless terminal to all the neighboring base stations is

$$P_I^{\text{total}} = P_T (G_{0,1} + G_{0,2} + \dots + G_{0,N}) = P_R \frac{\sum_{k=1}^N G_{0,k}}{G_{0,0}} = P_R \sum_{k=1}^N r_{0,k}$$

Therefore, {r_{0,1}, . . . , r_{0,N}} are the interference costs of wireless terminal m₀ to the entire system.

It is useful to note that the aggregate instantaneous interference produced by the mobile m₀ to base station B_k is actually given by n_{tones} r_{0,k} where n_{tones} is the frequency extent of the traffic segment.

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Method of determining interference costs in some embodiments will now be described. In one exemplary embodiment, each base station **102**, **114** in the exemplary system **100** broadcasts periodic reference signals at high power that the wireless terminals can detect and decode. The reference signals include beacons, pilots, or other common control signals. The reference signals may have a unique pattern that serves to identify the cell and the sector of the base station.

In the exemplary OFDM system **100**, a beacon or pilot signal can be used as the reference signals. A beacon signal is a special OFDM symbol in which most of the transmission power is concentrated on a small number of tones. The frequency location of those high-power tones indicates the identifier of the base station. A pilot signal can have a special hopping pattern, which also uniquely specifies the identifier of the base station **102**. Thus, a base station sector can be identified in the exemplary system from beacon and/or pilot signals.

In a CDMA system, a pilot signal can be used as the reference signal. In the IS-95 system, for example, a pilot is a known spreading sequence with a particular time offset as the identifier of the base station.

While the exemplary system **100** described above uses beacon or pilot signals to provide a reference signal for path loss estimation, the invention is applicable in a wide variety of systems that may use other techniques to provide reference signals.

The reference signals are transmitted at known powers. Different reference signals may be transmitted at different powers. Different base stations **102**, **114** may use different power levels for the same type of reference signals as long as these powers are known to the mobile terminals.

The wireless terminal **106** first receives the reference signals to get the identifier of the base station **102**. Then, the wireless terminal **106** measures the received power of the reference signals, and calculates the channel gain from the base station **102** to the wireless terminal **106**. Note that at a given location, the wireless terminal may be able to receive the reference signals from multiple base stations **102**, **114**. On the other hand, the wireless terminal may not be able to receive the reference signals from all the base stations in the entire system. In the exemplary system, wireless terminal m_0 monitors $G_{0,0}$ for its connected base station B_0 , and $G_{0,k}$ for base station B_k if it can receive the corresponding reference signal. Therefore, wireless terminal m_0 maintains an array of interference costs $\{r_{0,k}\}$ for the set of base stations whose reference signals it can receive.

Note that the wireless terminal **106** can derive the interference costs by combining the estimation from multiple reference signals. For example, in the exemplary OFDM system **100**, the wireless terminal **106** may use both beacons and pilots to arrive at the estimation of $\{r_{0,k}\}$.

The information of interference costs $\{r_{0,k}\}$ is to be used to control the uplink interference and increase overall system capacity. The uplink traffic channels can be used in two modes and the following describes the use of interference costs in both modes.

It should be pointed out that the wireless terminals **106**, **108** measured the channel gain information from the downlink reference signals, while the interference are a measure of the costs the interference will have in terms of impact on the uplink. The channel gains of the downlink and the uplink between a wireless terminal **106** and a base station **102** may not be same at all times. To remove the effect of short-term variations, the estimates of the channel gains from the downlink reference signals may, and in some embodiments are,

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averaged (using a form of lowpass filtering for example) to obtain the estimates of interference costs $\{r_{0,k}\}$.

Use of determined Interference Costs in a Scheduled Mode of operation will now be discussed. In one particular exemplary mode of operation, each of the uplink traffic segments are explicitly assigned by the base station so that one uplink traffic segment is only used by at most one wireless terminal. In the exemplary OFDM system, as the traffic segments are orthogonal with each other, there is normally no intracell interference in an uplink traffic segment in this mode.

To facilitate scheduling at the base station **102**, in accordance with the invention, each wireless terminal **106**, **108** sends to the base station **102**, which the wireless terminal is connected to, a sequence of interference reports. The reports, in some embodiments are indicative of the calculated interference costs $\{r_{0,k}\}$. In an extreme case, a report is a control message that includes the entire array of interference costs $\{r_{0,k}\}$. To reduce the signaling overhead, however, in an embodiment only a quantized version of the array $\{r_{0,k}\}$ is transmitted. There are a number of ways to quantize $\{r_{0,k}\}$, as listed below.

Report $r_{0,total}$, which is the sum of all $\{r_{0,k}\}$.

Report the maximum of $\{r_{0,k}\}$ and the index k associated with the maximum.

Report $\{r_{0,k}\}$ one-by-one, and the associated index k , periodically.

Use a small number of levels to report $r_{0,k}$. For example, two levels to indicate whether $r_{0,k}$ is strong or weak.

After receiving the one or more interference reports, the base station schedules, e.g., assigns, the traffic segments as a function of the interference information. One scheduling policy is to restrict the total interference produced by all scheduled wireless terminals to a predetermined threshold. Another scheduling policy is to categorize the wireless terminals according to their reported $\{r_{0,k}\}$ to several groups such that the group with large interference costs is preferably assigned traffic segments that include a smaller frequency extent in order to reduce the impact of the instantaneous interference generated.

Consider one embodiment in which each base station **102** is aware of its neighbor set, i.e., the set of base stations **114**, etc. that are determined to be neighbors from the perspective of interference. In a basic embodiment, the base station **102** just attempts to control the total interference to the neighboring base stations. The basic embodiment may be coarse in the sense that almost all the interference may be directed to a particular one of the neighboring base stations (cell X), e.g., because all the scheduled wireless terminals may be close to cell X. In this case, cell X experiences severe interference at this time instant. At another time instant, the interference may be concentrated on a different neighboring base station, in which case cell X experiences little interference. Hence, in the above embodiment of total interference control, the interference to a particular neighboring base station may have large variation. In order to avoid destabilizing the intercell interference, the base station **102** may have to leave sufficient margin in the total generated interference to compensate the large variation.

In an enhanced embodiment, the base station **102** broadcasts a message on a common control channel instructing the wireless terminals **106**, **108** to determine and report the interference cost with respect to a particular base station B_k . Thus, the wireless terminals, m_j , $j=0, 1, 2, \dots$ will send the reports of $r_{j,k}$. Over time, the base station **102** repeats this process for each member of its neighbor set and determines the set of wireless terminals **106**, **108** that interfere with each of the base stations. Once this categorization is complete, the base

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station 102 can simultaneously allocate uplink traffic segments to a subset of wireless terminals 106, 108 that interfere with different base stations, thereby reducing the variation of the interference directed to any particular base station. Advantageously, because the interference has less variation, the base station 102 may allow greater total interference to be generated without severely impacting the system stability, thus increasing the system capacity. Wireless terminals 106, 108 in the interior of the cell 104 cause negligible interference to neighboring base stations 114 and therefore may be scheduled at any time.

Use of Interference Costs in a Non-scheduled Mode of operation used in some but not necessarily all implementations will now be discussed.

In this non-scheduled mode, each of the uplink traffic segments are not explicitly assigned by the base station 102. As a result, one uplink traffic segment may be used by multiple wireless terminals 106, 108. In a CDMA system, as the uplink traffic segments are not orthogonal with each other, there is generally intracell interference in an uplink traffic segment in this mode.

In this mode, each wireless terminal 106, 108 makes its own scheduling decision of whether it is to use an uplink traffic segment and if so at what data rate and power. To help reduce excessive interference and maintain system stability, in accordance with various embodiments, the base station broadcasts the interference control indicator. Each wireless terminal 106, 108 compares the reference levels with its interference costs and determines its scheduling decision.

In one embodiment, the interference control indicator can be a multi-level variable and each level is to indicate how tightly the base station 102 would like to control the total interference. For example, when the lowest level is broadcasted, then each of the wireless terminals 106, 108 are allowed to use each of the traffic channel segments at each of the rates. When the highest level is broadcasted, then only the wireless terminals 106, 108 whose interference costs are very low can use the traffic channel segments. When a medium level is broadcasted, then the wireless terminals 106, 108 whose interference costs are low can use all the traffic channel segments, preferably the traffic segments that include a larger frequency extent, while the wireless terminals 106, 108 whose interference costs are high can only use the traffic segments that consist of a smaller frequency extent and at lower data rate. The base station 102 can dynamically change the broadcasted interference control level to control the amount of interference the wireless terminals 106, 108 of the cell 104 generate to other base stations.

FIG. 5, comprising the combination of FIG. 5A, FIG. 5B, and FIG. 5C is a flowchart 1000 of an exemplary method of operating a wireless terminal, e.g., mobile node, in accordance with various embodiments. Operation starts in step 1002, where the wireless terminal is powered on and initialized. Operation proceeds from step 1002 to step 1004, step 1006 and, via connecting node B 1005 to step 1008.

In step 1004, the wireless terminal is operated to receive beacon and pilot signals from the current base station sector connection. Operation proceeds from step 1004 to step 1010. In step 1010, the wireless terminal measures the power of the received beacon signal (PB_0) and received pilot channel signals (PP_0) for the current base station sector connection. Operation proceeds from step 1010 to step 1012. In step 1012, the wireless terminal derives current connection base station sector transmitter information, e.g., a BSS_slope and a BSS_sector type from the received beacon signal. Step 1012 includes sub-step 1013. In sub-step 1013, the wireless terminal

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determines a power transmission tier level associated with the current connection base station sector and tone block being used.

In step 1006, the wireless terminal receives beacon signal from one or more interfering base station sectors 1006. Operation proceeds from step 1006 to step 1014. Subsequent operations 1014, 1016, 1018 are performed for each interfering base station sector, e.g., interfering base station sector, (BSS_i).

In step 1014, the wireless terminal measures the power of received beacon signal (PB_i) for the interfering base station sector. Operation proceeds from step 1014 to step 1016. In step 1016, the wireless terminal derives interfering base station sector transmitter information, e.g., a BSS_slope and a BSS_sector type from the received beacon signal. Step 1016 includes sub-step 1017. In sub-step 1017, the wireless terminal determines a power transmission tier level associated with an interfering base station sector and tone block being used.

Operation proceeds from steps 1012 and step 1016 to step 1018. In step 1018 the wireless terminal computes a channel gain ratio using the method of sub-step 1020 or the method of sub-step 1022.

In sub-step 1020, the wireless terminal uses beacon signal information to compute the channel gain ratio, G_i . Sub-step 1020 includes sub-step 1024, where the wireless terminal computes $G_i = PB_i / PB_0$.

In sub-step 1022, the wireless terminal uses beacon signal information and pilot signal information to compute the channel gain ratio G_i . Sub-step 1022 includes sub-step 1026, where the wireless terminal computes $G_i = PB_i / (PP_0 * K * Z_0)$, where K = per tone transmitter power beacon reference level for a tier 0 tone block/per tone transmitter pilot signal reference level for a tier 0 tone block, and Z_0 = power scale factor associated with the power transmission tier level of the tone block for the current base station sector connection transmitter tone block.

Operation proceeds from step 1018 via connecting node A 1042 to step 1043, where the wireless terminal generates one or more interference reports.

Returning to step 1008, in step 1008 the wireless terminal is operated to receive broadcast load factor information. Thus, in the exemplary embodiment, the wireless terminal receives the load factor information of the current serving base station sector from the broadcast information sent by the current serving base station sector transmitter. The wireless terminal may receive the load factor information of the interfering serving base station sector from the broadcast information sent by the current or the interfering serving base station sector transmitter. While load factor information is shown as being received from the current serving base station sector, alternatively, load factor information can be received from other nodes and/or pre-stored in the wireless terminal. For each base station sector under consideration, operation proceeds to step 1028. In step 1028 the wireless terminal determines whether or not the load factor was successfully recovered from the received signal. If the load factor was successfully recovered from the received signal operation proceeds to step 1030, where the wireless terminal stores the load factor. For example load factor b_0 = the load factor for the current serving base station sector, and load factor b_k = the load factor for interfering base station section k. If the load factor was not successfully recovered from the received signal, then operation proceeds to step 1032, where the wireless terminal sets the load factor to 1. Load factors (b_0 1032, b_1 1034, ..., b_k 1038, ..., b_n 1040) are obtained, with each load factor being sourced from one of steps 1030 and step 1032.

Returning to step **1043**, in step **1043** the wireless terminal generates one or more interference reports. Step **1043** includes sub-step **1044** and sub-step **1048**. In sub-step **1044**, the wireless terminal generates a specific type report conveying interference by a specific interfering base station sector to the serving base station sector. Step **1044** includes sub-step **1046**. In sub-step **1046**, the wireless terminal computes the report value $= (b_0/Z_0)/(G_k * b_k/Z_k)$, where b_0 is the loading factor of the current serving BSS and b_k is the loading factor if an interfering BSS to which the report corresponds, $G_k = G_1$ for $i=k$, and Z_0 is the power scale factor associated with the power transmission tier level of the tone block for the current BSS connection transmitter tone block, and Z_k is the power scale factor associated with the power transmission tier level of the tone block for the interfering base station sector to which the report corresponds.

In sub-step **1048**, the wireless terminal generates a generic type report conveying information of interference by one or more interfering BSSs to the serving BSS, e.g., using information from each of the measured beacon signals of interfering base station sectors including using load factor information and power scale factor information.

In some embodiments, step **1043** includes quantization.

Operation proceeds from step **1043** to step **1050** where the wireless terminal is operated to transmit the report to the current serving base station sector serving as the current attachment point for the wireless terminal. In some embodiments, the transmission of a report is in response to a request from the serving base station sector. In some embodiments, the type of report transmitted, e.g., specific or generic, is in response to received signaling from a base station sector identifying the type of report. In some embodiments, the transmission of a particular specific type report reporting on interference associated with a particular base station sector is in response to a received base station signal identifying the particular base station sector. In various embodiments, interference reports are transmitted periodically in accordance with a reporting schedule being followed by the wireless terminal, e.g., as part of dedicated control channel structure. In some such embodiments, for at least some of the interference reports transmitted, the base station does not signal any report selection information to select the report.

In some embodiments, the system includes a plurality of power transmission tier levels, e.g., three, with a different power scale factor associated with each tier level. For example, in one exemplary embodiment a power scale factor of 0 dB is associated with a tier level 0 tone block, while a power scale factor of 6 dB is associated with a tier 1 level tone block, and a power scale factor of 12 dB is associated with a tier 2 tone block. In some embodiments, each attachment point corresponds to a base station sector transmitter and a tone block, and each attachment point BSS transmitter tone block may be associated with a power transmission tier level. In some embodiments there are a plurality of downlink tones blocks, e.g., three tone block (tone block 0, tone block 1, tone block 2) each having 113 contiguous evenly spaced tones. In some embodiments, the same tone block, e.g., tone block 0, used different base station sector transmitters, has a different power transmission tier level associated with the different base station sector transmitters. A wireless terminal, identifying a particular attachment point, corresponding to a base station sector transmitter and tone block, e.g., from information conveyed via its beacon signal using tone location and/or time position with a recurring transmission pattern, can use stored information to associate the identified attachment point with a particular power transmission tier level and power scale factor for a particular tone block.

In some embodiments, the loading factor, e.g., b_k , is a value greater than or equal to 0 and less than or equal to one. In some embodiments, the value is communicated from a base station sector to a wireless terminal represents one of a plurality of levels, e.g., 0 dB, -1 dB, -2 dB, -3 dB, -4 dB, -6 dB, -9 dB, -infinity dB.

In some embodiments, the beacon signals are transmitted at the same power from a base station sector transmitter irrespective of power transmission tier associated with the tone block being used; however, other downlink signals, e.g., pilot signals, are affected by the power transmission tier associated with the tone block for the base station sector transmitter. In some embodiments, the parameter K is at value greater than or equal to 6 dB. For example in one exemplary embodiment the parameter $K = 23.8 \text{ dB} - 7.2 \text{ dB} = 16.6 \text{ dB}$.

FIG. 8 shows an exemplary communication system **800** implemented in accordance with various embodiments. Exemplary communications system **800** includes multiple cells: cell **1 802**, cell **M 804**. Exemplary system **800** is, e.g., an exemplary orthogonal frequency division multiplexing (OFDM) spread spectrum wireless communications system such as a multiple access OFDM system. Each cell **802**, **804** of exemplary system **800** includes three sectors. Cells which have not be subdivided into multiple sectors ($N=1$), cells with two sectors ($N=2$) and cells with more than 3 sectors ($N>3$) are also possible in accordance with various embodiments. Each sector supports one or more carriers and/or downlink tones blocks. In some embodiments, each downlink tone block has a corresponding uplink tone block. In some embodiments at least some of the sectors support three downlink tones blocks. Cell **802** includes a first sector, sector **1 810**, a second sector, sector **2 812**, and a third sector, sector **3 814**. Similarly, cell **M 804** includes a first sector, sector **1 822**, a second sector, sector **2 824**, and a third sector, sector **3 826**. Cell **1 802** includes a base station (BS), base station **1 806**, and a plurality of wireless terminals (WTs) in each sector **810**, **812**, **814**. Sector **1 810** includes WT(1) **836** and WT(N) **838** coupled to BS **806** via wireless links **840**, **842**, respectively; sector **2 812** includes WT(1') **844** and WT(N') **846** coupled to BS **806** via wireless links **848**, **850**, respectively; sector **3 814** includes WT(1'') **852** and WT(N'') **854** coupled to BS **806** via wireless links **856**, **858**, respectively. Similarly, cell **M 804** includes base station **M 808**, and a plurality of wireless terminals (WTs) in each sector **822**, **824**, **826**. Sector **1 822** includes WT(1''') **868** and WT(N''') **870** coupled to BS **M 808** via wireless links **880**, **882**, respectively; sector **2 824** includes WT(1''') **872** and WT(N''') **874** coupled to BS **M 808** via wireless links **884**, **886**, respectively; sector **3 826** includes WT(1''') **876** and WT(N''') **878** coupled to BS **M 808** via wireless links **888**, **890**, respectively.

System **800** also includes a network node **860** which is coupled to BS **1 806** and BS **M 808** via network links **862**, **864**, respectively. Network node **860** is also coupled to other network nodes, e.g., other base stations, AAA server nodes, intermediate nodes, routers, etc. and the Internet via network link **866**. Network links **862**, **864**, **866** may be, e.g., fiber optic cables. Each wireless, e.g. WT **1 836**, includes a transmitter as well as a receiver. At least some of the wireless terminals, e.g., WT(1) **836**, are mobile nodes which may move through system **800** and may communicate via wireless links with the base station in the cell in which the WT is currently located, e.g., using a base station sector attachment point. The wireless terminals, (WTs), e.g. WT(1) **836**, may communicate with peer nodes, e.g., other WTs in system **800** or outside system **800** via a base station, e.g. BS **806**, and/or network node **860**. WTs, e.g., WT(1) **836** may be mobile communications devices such as cell phones, personal data assistants with

wireless modems, laptop computers with wireless modems, data terminals with wireless modems, etc.

An exemplary 4 bit downlink beacon ratio report (DL-BNR4) will now be described. The beacon ratio report provides information which is a function of received measured downlink broadcast signals, e.g., beacon signals and/or pilot signals, from a serving base station sector and from one or more other interfering base station sectors. Qualitatively, the beacon ratio report can be used to estimate the relative proximity of the WT to other base station sectors. The beacon ratio report can be, and in some embodiments is, used at the serving BS sector in controlling the uplink rate of the WT to prevent excessive interference to other sectors. The beacon ratio report, in some embodiments, is based on two factors: (i) estimated channel gain ratios, denoted G_i , and (ii) loading factors, denoted b_i .

The channel gain ratios are defined, in some embodiments, as follows. In the tone block of the current connection, the WT, in some embodiments, determines an estimate of the ratio of the uplink channel gain from the WT to any interfering Base station sector i (BSS i) to the channel gain from the WT to the serving BSS. This ratio is denoted as G_i . Typically, the uplink channel gain ratio is not directly measurable at the WT. However, since the uplink and downlink path gains are typically symmetric, the ratio can be estimated by comparing the relative received power of downlink signals from the serving and interfering BSSs. One possible choice for the reference downlink signal is the downlink beacon signal, which is well-suited for this purpose since it can be detected in very low SNR. In some embodiments, beacon signals have a higher per tone transmission power level than other downlink signals from a base station sector. Additionally, the characteristics of the beacon signal are such that precise timing synchronization is not necessary to detect and measure the beacon signal. For example, the beacon signal is, in some embodiments, a high power narrowband, e.g., single tone, two OFDM symbol transmission time period wide signal. Thus at certain locations, a WT is able to detect and measure a beacon signal from a base station sector, where the detection and/or measurement of other downlink broadcast signals, e.g., pilot signals may not be feasible. Using the beacon signal, the uplink path ratio would be given by $G_i = PB_i / PB_0$, where PB_i and PB_0 are, respectively, the measured received beacon power from the interfering and serving base station sectors, respectively.

Since the beacon is typically transmitted rather infrequently, the power measurement of the beacon signal may not provide a very accurate representation of average channel gain, especially in a fading environment where the power changes rapidly. For example, in some embodiments one beacon signal, which occupies 2 successive OFDM symbol transmission time periods in duration and which corresponds to a downlink tone block of a base station sector, is transmitted for every beaconslot of 912 OFDM symbol transmission time periods.

Pilot signals, on the other hand, are often transmitted much more frequently than beacon signals, e.g., in some embodiments pilot signals are transmitted during 896 out of the 912 OFDM symbol transmission time periods of a beaconslot. If the WT can detect the pilot signal from the BS sector, it can estimate the received beacon signal strength from the measured received pilot signal instead of using a beacon signal measurement. For example, if the WT can measure the received pilot power, PP_i , of the interfering BS sector, then it can estimate the received beacon power PB_i from estimated $PB_i = K Z_i PP_i$, where K is a nominal ratio of the beacon to pilot

power of the interfering sector that is the same for each of the BS sectors, and Z_i is a scaling factor that is sector dependent.

Similarly, if the pilot signal power from the serving BS is measurable at the WT, then the received beacon power PB_0 can be estimated from the relation, estimated $PB_0 = K Z_0 PP_0$, where Z_0 and PP_0 are, respectively, the scaling factor and measured received pilot power from the serving base station sector.

Observe that if the received pilot signal strength is measurable corresponding to the serving base station sector, and the received beacon signal strength is measurable corresponding to interfering base station sector, the beacon ratio can be estimated from:

$$G_i = PB_i / (PP_0 K Z_0).$$

Observe that if the pilot strengths are measurable in both the serving and interfering sectors, the beacon ratio can be estimated from:

$$G_i = PP_i K Z_i / (PP_0 K Z_0) = PP_i Z_i / (PP_0 Z_0).$$

The scaling factors K , Z_i and Z_0 are either system constants, or can be inferred by the WT, from other information from the BS. In some embodiments, some of the scaling factors (K , Z_i , Z_0) are system constants and some of the scaling factors (K , Z_i , Z_0) are inferred by the WT, from other information from the BS.

In some multicarrier systems with different power levels on different carriers, the scaling factors, Z_i and Z_0 , are a function of the downlink tone block. For example, an exemplary BSS has three power tier levels, and one of the three power tier levels is associated with each downlink tone block corresponding to a BSS attachment point. In some such embodiments, a different one of the three power tier levels is associated with each of the different tone blocks of the BSS. Continuing with the example, for the given BSS, each power tier level is associated with a nominal bss power level (e.g., one of bssPowerNominal0, bssPowerNominal1, and bssPowerNominal2) and the pilot channel signal is transmitted at a relative power level with respect to a nominal bss power level for the tone block, e.g., 7.2 dB above the nominal bss power level being used by the tone block; however, the beacon per tone relative transmission power level for the BSS is the same irrespective of the tone block from which the beacon is transmitted, e.g., 23.8 dB above the bss power level used by the power tier 0 block (bssPowerNominal0). Consequently, in this example for a given BSS, the beacon transmit power would be the same in each of the tone blocks, while the pilot transmit power is different, e.g. with the pilot transmit power of different tone blocks corresponding to different power tier levels. One set of scale factors for this example would be, $K = 23.8 - 7.2$ dB, which is the ratio of the beacon to pilot power for tier 0, and Z_i is set to the relative nominal power of the tier of the interfering sector to the power of a tier 0 sector.

In some embodiments, the parameter Z_0 is determined from stored information, e.g., Table 900 of FIG. 9, according to how the tone block of the current connection is used in the serving BSS as determined by the bssSectorType of the serving BSS. For example, if the tone block of the current connection is used as a tier 0 tone block by the serving BSS, the $Z_0 = 1$; if the tone block of the current connection is used as a tier 1 tone block by the serving BSS, the $Z_0 = \text{bssPowerBackoff01}$; if the tone block of the current connection is used as a tier 2 tone block by the serving BSS, the $Z_0 = \text{bssPowerBackoff02}$.

FIG. 9 includes exemplary power scaling factor table 900. First column 902 lists the use of the tone block as either a tier 0 tone block, tier 1 tone block, or tier 2 tone block. Second

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column **904** lists the scaling factor associated with each tier (**0,1,2**) tone block, as (**1**, **bssPowerBackoff01**, **bssPowerBackoff02**), respectively. In some embodiments, **bssPowerBackoff01** is **6** dBs while **bssPowerBackoff02** is **12** dB.

In some embodiments, the DCCH DLBNR4 report can be one of a generic beacon ratio report and a special beacon ratio report. In some such embodiments, a downlink traffic control channel, e.g., a DL.TCCH.FLASH channel, sends a special frame in a beaconslot, the special frame including a "Request for DLBNR4 report field". That field can be used by the serving BSS to control the selection. For example, if the field is set to zero then, the WT reports a generic beacon ratio report; otherwise the WT reports the special beacon ratio report.

A generic beacon ratio report, in accordance with various embodiments, measures the relative interference cost the WT would generate to all the interfering beacons or the "closest" interfering beacon, if the WT were to transmit to the serving BSS in the current connection. A special beacon ratio report, in accordance with some embodiments measures the relative interference cost the WT would generate to a specific BSS, if the WT were to transmit to the serving BSS in the current connection. The specific BSS is the one indicated using information received in the Request for DLBNR4 field of the special downlink frame. For example, in some embodiments, the specific BSS is the one whose **bssSlope** is equal to the value of the "Request for DLBNR4 report field", e.g., in unsigned integer format, and whose **bssSectorType** is equal to $\text{mod}(\text{ulUltraslotBeaconsSlotIndex}, 3)$, where **ulUltraslotBeaconsSlotIndex** is the uplink index of the beaconslot within the ultraslot of the current connection. In some exemplary embodiments, there are **18** indexed beaconslots within an ultraslot.

In various embodiments, both the generic and the special beacon ratios are determined from the calculated channel gain ratios **G1**, **G2**, . . . , as follows. The WT receives an uplink loading factor sent in a downlink broadcast system subchannel and determines a variable b_0 from uplink loading factor table **950** of FIG. **10**. Table **950** includes a first column **952** listing eight different values that may be used for the uplink loading factor (**0**, **1**, **2**, **3**, **4**, **5**, **6**, **7**); second column **954** lists the corresponding values for the b value in dB (**0**, **-1**, **-2**, **-3**, **-4**, **-6**, **-9**, **-infinity**), respectively. For other BSSi, the WT attempts to receive b_i from the uplink loading factor sent in the downlink broadcast system subchannel of the BSS i in the tone block of the current connection. If the WT is unable to receive the UL loading factor b_i , the WT sets $b_i=1$.

In some embodiments, in the single carrier operation, the WT calculates the following power ratio as the generic beacon ratio report: $b_0/(G_1b_1+G_2b_2+. . .)$ when **ulUltraslotBeaconsSlotIndex** is even or $b_0/\max(G_1b_1, G_2b_2, . . .)$ when **ulUltraslotBeaconsSlotIndex** is odd, where **ulUltraslotBeaconsSlotIndex** is the uplink index of the beaconslot within the ultraslot of the current connection and the operation+ represents a regular addition. When required to send a specific beacon ratio report, the WT, in some embodiments, calculates $b_0/(G_kB_k)$, where index k represents the specific BSS k . In some embodiments, there are **18** indexed beaconslots within an ultraslot.

FIG. **11** is a table **1100** illustrating an exemplary format for a 4 bit downlink beacon ratio report (DLBNR4), in accordance with various embodiments. First column **1102** lists the 16 various bit patterns that the report can convey, while second column **1104** lists the reported power ratio reported corresponding to each bit pattern, e.g., ranging from **-3** dB to **26** dBs. The wireless terminal reports the generic and specific beacon ratio reports by selecting and communicating the

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DLBNR4 table entry that is closed to the determined report value. Although in this exemplary embodiment, the generic and specific beacon ratio reports use the same table for DLBNR4, in some embodiments, different tables may be used.

FIG. **12** is a drawing of an exemplary orthogonal frequency division multiplexing (OFDM) wireless communications system **8000**, e.g., an OFDM spread spectrum multiple access wireless communications system, implemented in accordance with various embodiments. Exemplary wireless communications system **800** includes a plurality of base stations coupled together via a backhaul network and a plurality of wireless terminals, e.g., mobile nodes. Exemplary base stations (base station **1 8002**, base station **2 8004**, base station **3 8006**, base station **4 8008**) and exemplary wireless terminal **1 (WT1) 8010** are shown in FIG. **12**.

Base station **1 8002** is a three sector base station including a base station sector **S0 (BSS 0) 8012**, a base station sector **S1 (BSS 1) 8014**, and a base station sector **S2 (BSS2) 8016**. Each base station sector (**8012**, **8014**, **8016**) has a corresponding nominal tier **0** power level (**BSS 0** nominal tier **0** power level **8018**, **BSS 1** nominal tier **0** power level **8020**, **BSS 2** nominal tier **0** power level **8022**). Base station **2 8004** is a three sector base station including a base station sector **SO (BSS 0) 8024**, a base station sector **S1 (BSS 1) 8026**, and a base station sector **S2 (BSS2) 8028**. Each base station sector (**8024**, **8026**, **8028**) has a corresponding nominal tier **0** power level (**BSS 0** nominal tier **0** power level **8030**, **BSS 1** nominal tier **0** power level **8032**, **BSS 2** nominal tier **0** power level **8034**). Base station **3 8006** is a three sector base station including a base station sector **SO (BSS 0) 8036**, a base station sector **S1 (BSS 1) 8038**, and a base station sector **S2 (BSS2) 8040**. Each base station sector (**8036**, **8038**, **8040**) has a corresponding nominal tier **0** power level (**BSS 0** nominal tier **0** power level **8042**, **BSS 1** nominal tier **0** power level **8044**, **BSS 2** nominal tier **0** power level **8046**). Base station **4 8008** is a single sector base station which has a nominal tier **0** power level **8048**.

Each nominal tier **0** power level corresponds to a power level associated with one of the downlink tones blocks being used by the corresponding base station sector transmitter. In some embodiments, each downlink tone block is associated with a corresponding uplink tone block. In this exemplary embodiment each base station sector corresponds to one or more physical attachment points, each physical attachment point corresponding to a downlink/uplink tone block pair. For a base station sector transmitter which uses multiple downlink tone blocks, e.g., corresponding to multiple physical attachment points, to communicate downlink user data, the nominal tier **0** power level is associated with the downlink tone block having the highest power level. In addition, the other downlink tone blocks, are referenced in nominal power level with respect to the tier **0** tone block power level, with the nominal power levels of those tone blocks having a lower value. For example, for a given BSS, a tier **1** tone block has a lower power level than a tier **0** tone block, and a tier **2** tone block has a lower power level than a tier **1** tone block.

FIG. **13** illustrates the exemplary system **8000** of FIG. **12**, and provides additional detail corresponding to each of the base station sectors to illustrate various features. This exemplary embodiment represents a wireless communications system using three non-overlapping downlink tone blocks (tone block **0**, tone block **1**, and tone block **2**). For example, each downlink tone block, in some embodiments, corresponds to **113** OFDM tones, and the combination of the 3 tone blocks corresponds to a **5** MHz system. In this exemplary embodiment, beacon signals are transmitted by a BSS into each tone block and beacons are communicated at a power level with

respect to the tier 0 power level; however, pilot signals and user data signals may or may not be transmitted into a given tone block and pilot/user data signals are transmitted by a base station sector at a power level with respect to power tier level of the corresponding tone block. Each base station sector transmits one beacon signal per tone block per beaconslot. In this exemplary embodiment, the sector type determines which tone block is the tier 0 tone block; tier 1 and tier 2 tone blocks, when used, are also determined by association with a sector type.

Block 8050 indicates that for BSS 0 8012 of base station 1 8002: (i) tone block 0 is associated with tier power level 0 and beacon, pilot and user data signals are communicated in tone block 0, (ii) tone block 1 is associated with tier power level 1 and beacon, pilot and user data signals are communicated in tone block 1, (iii) tone block 2 is associated with tier power level 2 and beacon, pilot and user data signals are communicated in tone block 2. Block 8052 indicates that for BSS 1 8014 of base station 1 8002: (i) tone block 0 is associated with tier power level 2 and beacon, pilot and user data signals are communicated in tone block 0, (ii) tone block 1 is associated with tier power level 0 and beacon, pilot and user data signals are communicated in tone block 1, (iii) tone block 2 is associated with tier power level 1 and beacon, pilot and user data signals are communicated in tone block 2. Block 8054 indicates that for BSS 2 8016 of base station 1 8002: (i) tone block 0 is associated with tier power level 1 and beacon, pilot and user data signals are communicated in tone block 0, (ii) tone block 1 is associated with tier power level 2 and beacon, pilot and user data signals are communicated in tone block 1, (iii) tone block 2 is associated with tier power level 0 and beacon, pilot and user data signals are communicated in tone block 2.

Block 8056 indicates that for BSS 0 8024 of base station 2 8004: (i) tone block 0 is associated with tier power level 0 and beacon, pilot and user data signals are communicated in tone block 0, (ii) tone block 1 is associated with tier power level 1 and beacon, pilot and user data signals are communicated in tone block 1, (iii) tone block 2 is associated with tier power level 2 and beacon, pilot and user data signals are communicated in tone block 2. Block 8058 indicates that for BSS 1 8026 of base station 2 8004: (i) tone block 0 is associated with tier power level 2 and beacon, pilot and user data signals are communicated in tone block 0, (ii) tone block 1 is associated with tier power level 0 and beacon, pilot and user data signals are communicated in tone block 1, (iii) tone block 2 is associated with tier power level 1 and beacon, pilot and user data signals are communicated in tone block 2. Block 8060 indicates that for BSS 2 8028 of base station 2 8004: (i) tone block 0 is associated with tier power level 1 and beacon, pilot and user data signals are communicated in tone block 0, (ii) tone block 1 is associated with tier power level 2 and beacon, pilot and user data signals are communicated in tone block 1, (iii) tone block 2 is associated with tier power level 0 and beacon, pilot and user data signals are communicated in tone block 2.

Block 8062 indicates that for BSS 0 8036 of base station 3 8006: (i) tone block 0 is associated with tier power level 0 and beacon, pilot and user data signals are communicated in tone block 0, (ii) tone block 1 is associated with tier power level 1 and beacon, pilot and user data signals are communicated in tone block 1, (iii) tone block 2 is used for beacon signaling but not used for pilot and user data signaling. Block 8064 indicates that for BSS 1 8038 of base station 3 8006: (i) tone block 0 is used for beacon signaling but is not used for pilot and user data signaling, (ii) tone block 1 is associated with tier power level 0 and beacon, pilot and user data signals are communicated in tone block 1, (iii) tone block 2 is used for beacon signaling but is not used for pilot and user data signaling.

Block 8066 indicates that for BSS 2 8040 of base station 3 8006: (i) tone block 0 is used for beacon signaling but is not used for pilot and user data signaling, (ii) tone block 1 is used for beacon signaling but is not used for pilot and user data signaling, (iii) tone block 2 is associated with tier power level 0 and beacon, pilot and user data signals are communicated in tone block 2.

Block 8068 indicates that for the BSS of base station 4 8008: (i) tone block 0 is associated with tier power level 0 and beacon, pilot and user data signals are communicated in tone block 0, (ii) tone block 1 is associated with tier power level 1 and beacon, pilot and user data signals are communicated in tone block 1, (iii) tone block 2 is associated with tier power level 2 and beacon, pilot and user data signals are communicated in tone block 2.

FIG. 14 is a drawing of the exemplary system 8000, described in FIGS. 12 and 13, which includes exemplary signaling received and processed by WT 8010 for the purposes of illustrating exemplary beacon ratio report methods in accordance with various embodiments. In the example of FIG. 14, the wireless terminal 8010 has a wireless connection 8070 with BSS 8016 using tone block 1 physical attachment point. In regard to a beacon ratio report communicated over connection 8070, BSS 8016 is the serving BSS, sometimes denoted as BSS₀. In this example from the perspective of WT 8012, BSSs 8012, 8026, 8036, 8008 represent interfering base station sectors, sometimes denoted BSS_is.

From the serving BSS 8016, the wireless terminal receives and processes beacon signals 8078 and pilot tone signal 8076 communicated in tone block 1. Note that WT 1 8010 is timing synchronized with respect to the BSS 8016 tone block 1 attachment point and thus can accurately measure the pilot channel. From each interfering BSS (8012, 8026, 8036, 8008), the wireless terminal 8010 receives and processes beacon signals (8072, 8082, 8086, 8090), respectively, communicated in tone block 1. The beacon signals, e.g., using a single tone transmitted at a relatively high per tone transmit power level in comparison to other downlink broadcast signals such as pilot signals and having a duration of two consecutive OFDM symbol transmission time periods are more easily detectable, e.g., at longer ranges, than pilot signals and do not require precise timing synchronization to be accurately measured. In addition uplink load factor information signals (8080, 8074, 8084, 8088, 8092) are communicated from each of the BSSs (8016, 8012, 8026, 8036, 8008), respectively. These uplink load factor information signals (8080, 8074, 8084, 8088, 8092) are communicated as broadcast signals, but may or may not be successfully recovered, e.g., as their per tone transmission power level is lower than a beacon's. Where an uplink loading factor can not be successfully recovered, a default value, e.g., a value of 1, is used in the beacon ratio report calculation.

Exemplary generic beacon ratio report generation will now be described, the generated generic beacon ratio report being communicated over connection 8070 via a dedicated control channel segment.

The serving BSS, BSS₀ is BSS 8016. PP₀ is the wireless terminal measured power of received pilot signals 8076. Interfering BSS₁ is BSS 8012, and PB₁ is the measured power of received beacon signal 8072. Interfering BSS₂ is BSS 8026, and PB₂ is the measured power of received beacon signal 8082. Interfering BSS₃ is BSS 8036, and PB₃ is the measured power of received beacon signal 8086. Interfering BSS₄ is BSS 8008, and PB₄ is the measured power of received beacon signal 8090. Uplink loading factors (b₀, b₁, b₂, b₃, b₄) are recovered, if successfully recovered, from signals (8080, 8074, 8084, 8088, 8092), respectively. The value of

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each b is greater than or equal to zero and less than or equal to 1. If a given b can not be recovered a default value of 1 is used. Indicator function $I_1=1$ since tone block 1 is used by BSS 8102 for pilot and user data signaling. Indicator function $I_2=1$ since tone block 1 is used by BSS 8026 for pilot and user data signaling. Indicator function $I_3=0$ since tone block 1 is not used by BSS 8036 for pilot and user data signaling. Indicator function $I_4=1$ since tone block 1 is used by BSS 8008 for pilot and user data signaling.

K is the ratio of the per-tone transmission power of the beacon channel to the pilot channel for a tier 0 tone block, which is a constant for the system. $Z_0 = \text{bssPowerbackoff02}$ since tone block 1 of BSS 8016 is a tier 2 tone block. $Z_1 = \text{bssPowerbackoff01}$ since tone block 1 of BSS 8012 is a tier 1 tone block. $Z_2=1$ since tone block 1 of BSS 8026 is a tier 0 tone block. Z_3 is not relevant since $I_3=0$. $Z_4 = \text{bssPowerBackoff01}$ since tone block 1 of BSS 8008 is a tier 1 tone block.

In the general case with n interfering base station sectors being considered, a first type of generic beacon ratio report = $(b_0/Z_0)/(G_1 b_1/Z_1 * I_1 + G_2 b_2/Z_2 * I_2 + G_3 b_3/Z_3 * I_3 + G_4 b_4/Z_4 * I_4 + \dots G_n b_n/Z_n * I_n)$ and a second type of generic beacon ratio report = $(b_0/Z_0)/(\max(G_1 b_1/Z_1 * I_1, G_2 b_2/Z_2 * I_2, G_3 b_3/Z_3 * I_3, G_4 b_4/Z_4 * I_4, \dots G_n b_n/Z_n * I_n))$ where

$$G_1 = PB_1 / PB_0 \text{ or } PB_1 / (PP_0 * K * Z_0).$$

$$G_2 = PB_2 / PB_0 \text{ or } PB_2 / (PP_0 * K * Z_0).$$

$$G_3 = PB_3 / PB_0 \text{ or } PB_3 / (PP_0 * K * Z_0).$$

$$G_4 = PB_4 / PB_0 \text{ or } PB_4 / (PP_0 * K * Z_0).$$

⋮

$$G_n = PB_n / PB_0 \text{ or } PB_n / (PP_0 * K * Z_0).$$

For the specific case of FIG. 14 with 4 interfering base station sectors being considered, the first type of generic beacon ratio report = $(b_0/Z_0)/(G_1 b_1/Z_1 * I_1 + G_2 b_2/Z_2 * I_2 + G_3 b_3/Z_3 * I_3 + G_4 b_4/Z_4 * I_4)$ and the second type of generic beacon ratio report = $(b_0/Z_0)/(\max(G_1 b_1/Z_1 * I_1, G_2 b_2/Z_2 * I_2, G_3 b_3/Z_3 * I_3, G_4 b_4/Z_4 * I_4))$ where

$$G_1 = PB_1 / PB_0 \text{ or } PB_1 / (PP_0 * K * Z_0).$$

$$G_2 = PB_2 / PB_0 \text{ or } PB_2 / (PP_0 * K * Z_0).$$

$$G_3 = PB_3 / PB_0 \text{ or } PB_3 / (PP_0 * K * Z_0).$$

$$G_4 = PB_4 / PB_0 \text{ or } PB_4 / (PP_0 * K * Z_0).$$

In addition since $I_1=1$, $I_2=1$, $I_3=0$, and $I_4=1$ the generic beacon ratio report equation is reduced to: first type of generic beacon ratio report = $(b_0/Z_0)/(G_1 b_1/Z_1 + G_2 b_2/Z_2 + G_4 b_4/Z_4)$ and second type of generic beacon ratio report = $(b_0/Z_0)/(\max(G_1 b_1/Z_1, G_2 b_2/Z_2, G_4 b_4/Z_4))$ where

$$G_1 = PB_1 / PB_0 \text{ or } PB_1 / (PP_0 * K * Z_0).$$

$$G_2 = PB_2 / PB_0 \text{ or } PB_2 / (PP_0 * K * Z_0).$$

$$G_4 = PB_4 / PB_0 \text{ or } PB_4 / (PP_0 * K * Z_0).$$

FIG. 15 is a drawing of the exemplary system 8000, described in FIGS. 12 and 13, which includes exemplary signaling received and processed by WT 8010 for the purposes of illustrating exemplary beacon ratio report methods in accordance with various embodiments. In the example of FIG. 15, the wireless terminal 8010 has two concurrent wireless connections, a first wireless connection 8070 with BSS

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8016 using tone block 1 physical attachment point and the second physical connection is with BSS 8026 using tone block 1 physical attachment point. In regard to a beacon ratio report communicated over connection 8070, BSS 8016 is the serving BSS, sometimes denoted as BSS₀, and BSSs 8012, 8026, 8036, 8008 represent interfering base station sectors, sometimes denoted BSS_s. In regard to a beacon ratio report communicated over connection 8071, BSS 8026 is the serving BSS, sometimes denoted as BSS₀, and BSSs 8012, 8016, 8036, 8008 represent interfering base station sectors, sometimes denoted BSS_s.

The same signals previously described with respect to FIG. 14 can be used by WT 8010 in generating a beacon ratio report for connection 8070. In addition, pilot signals 8083 in tone block 1 from BSS 8026 can be used by WT 8010 in generating a beacon ratio report for connection 8070.

In the general case with n interfering base station sectors being considered, a first type of generic beacon ratio report = $(b_0/Z_0)/(G_1 b_1/Z_1 * I_1 + G_2 b_2/Z_2 * I_2 + G_3 b_3/Z_3 * I_3 + G_4 b_4/Z_4 * I_4 + \dots G_n b_n/Z_n * I_n)$ and a second type of generic beacon ratio report = $(b_0/Z_0)/(\max(G_1 b_1/Z_1 * I_1, G_2 b_2/Z_2 * I_2, G_3 b_3/Z_3 * I_3, G_4 b_4/Z_4 * I_4, \dots G_n b_n/Z_n * I_n))$ where

$$G_1 = PB_1 / PB_0 \text{ or } PB_1 / (PP_0 * K * Z_0) \text{ or } (PP_1 * Z_1) / (PP_0 * Z_0).$$

$$G_2 = PB_2 / PB_0 \text{ or } PB_2 / (PP_0 * K * Z_0) \text{ or } (PP_2 * Z_2) / (PP_0 * Z_0).$$

$$G_3 = PB_3 / PB_0 \text{ or } PB_3 / (PP_0 * K * Z_0) \text{ or } (PP_3 * Z_3) / (PP_0 * Z_0).$$

$$G_4 = PB_4 / PB_0 \text{ or } PB_4 / (PP_0 * K * Z_0) \text{ or } (PP_4 * Z_4) / (PP_0 * Z_0).$$

⋮

$$G_n = PB_n / PB_0 \text{ or } PB_n / (PP_0 * K * Z_0) \text{ or } (PP_n * Z_n) / (PP_0 * Z_0).$$

For the specific case of FIG. 15 with 4 interfering base station sectors being considered with respect to connection 1 8070, the first type of generic beacon ratio report = $(b_0/Z_0)/(G_1 b_1/Z_1 * I_1 + G_2 b_2/Z_2 * I_2 + G_3 b_3/Z_3 * I_3 + G_4 b_4/Z_4 * I_4)$ and the second type of generic beacon ratio report = $(b_0/Z_0)/(\max(G_1 b_1/Z_1 * I_1, G_2 b_2/Z_2 * I_2, G_3 b_3/Z_3 * I_3, G_4 b_4/Z_4 * I_4))$ where BSS 8016 is BSS₀, BSS 8012 is BSS₁, BSS 8026 is BSS₂, BSS 8036 is BSS₃ and BSS 8008 is BSS₄, and taking into account the availability of pilot signal information,

$$G_1 = PB_1 / PB_0 \text{ or } PB_1 / (PP_0 * K * Z_0).$$

$$G_2 = PB_2 / PB_0 \text{ or } PB_2 / (PP_0 * K * Z_0) \text{ or } (PP_2 * Z_2) / (PP_0 * Z_0).$$

$$G_3 = PB_3 / PB_0 \text{ or } PB_3 / (PP_0 * K * Z_0).$$

$$G_4 = PB_4 / PB_0 \text{ or } PB_4 / (PP_0 * K * Z_0).$$

In addition since $I_1=1$, $I_2=1$, $I_3=0$, and $I_4=1$ the generic beacon ratio report equation is reduced to: first type of generic beacon ratio report = $(b_0/Z_0)/(G_1 b_1/Z_1 + G_2 b_2/Z_2 + G_4 b_4/Z_4)$ and second type of generic beacon ratio report = $(b_0/Z_0)/(\max(G_1 b_1/Z_1, G_2 b_2/Z_2, G_4 b_4/Z_4))$ where

$$G_1 = PB_1 / PB_0 \text{ or } PB_1 / (PP_0 * K * Z_0).$$

$$G_2 = PB_2 / PB_0 \text{ or } PB_2 / (PP_0 * K * Z_0) \text{ or } (PP_2 * Z_2) / (PP_0 * Z_0).$$

$$G_4 = PB_4 / PB_0 \text{ or } PB_4 / (PP_0 * K * Z_0).$$

For the specific case of FIG. 15 with 4 interfering base station sectors being considered with respect to connection 2 8071, the first type of generic beacon ratio report = $(b_0/Z_0)/(G_1 b_1/Z_1 * I_1 + G_2 b_2/Z_2 * I_2 + G_3 b_3/Z_3 * I_3 + G_4 b_4/Z_4 * I_4)$ and the

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second type of generic beacon ratio report= $(b_0/Z_0)/(\max(G_1b_1/Z_1 * I_1, G_2b_2/Z_2 * I_2, G_3b_3/Z_3 * I_3, G_4b_4/Z_4 * I_4))$ where where BSS **8026** is BSS₀, BSS **8016** is BSS₁, BSS **8012** is BSS₂, BSS **8036** is BSS₃ and BSS **8008** is BSS₄, and taking into account the availability of pilot signal information,

$$G_1 = PB_1/PB_0 \text{ or } PB_1/(PP_0 * K * Z_0) \text{ or } (PP_1 * Z_1)/(PP_0 * Z_0).$$

$$G_2 = PB_2/PB_0 \text{ or } PB_2/(PP_0 * K * Z_0).$$

$$G_3 = PB_3/PB_0 \text{ or } PB_3/(PP_0 * K * Z_0).$$

$$G_4 = PB_4/PB_0 \text{ or } PB_4/(PP_0 * K * Z_0).$$

In addition since $I_1=1, I_2=1, I_3=0$, and $I_4=1$ the generic beacon ratio report equation is reduced to: first type of generic beacon ratio report= $(b_0/Z_0)/(G_1b_1/Z_1 + G_2b_2/Z_2 + G_4b_4/Z_4)$ and second type of generic beacon ratio report= $(b_0/Z_0)/(\max(G_1b_1/Z_1, G_2b_2/Z_2, G_4b_4/Z_4))$ where

$$G_1 = PB_1/PB_0 \text{ or } PB_1/(PP_0 * K * Z_0) \text{ or } (PP_1 * Z_1)/(PP_0 * Z_0).$$

$$G_2 = PB_2/PB_0 \text{ or } PB_2/(PP_0 * K * Z_0).$$

$$G_4 = PB_4/PB_0 \text{ or } PB_4/(PP_0 * K * Z_0).$$

In some embodiments, a wireless terminal attempts to obtain a channel gain ratio, e.g. a G_i , using pilot signals if reliable pilot signal information can be recovered from the two sources. If that is not possible, the wireless terminal attempts to obtain a channel gain ratio using pilot signals from the serving base station sector and beacon signals from the other base station sector.

FIG. 16 is a drawing of the exemplary system **8000**, described in FIGS. 12 and 13, which includes exemplary signaling received and processed by WT **8010** for the purposes of illustrating exemplary beacon ratio report methods in accordance with various embodiments. In the example of FIG. 16, the wireless terminal **8010** has a first wireless connection **8001** with BSS **8016** using tone block 1 physical attachment point and a second concurrent wireless connection **8003** with BSS **8026** using tone block 2 physical attachment point. In regard to a beacon ratio report communicated over connection **8001**, BSS **8016** is the serving BSS, sometimes denoted as BSS₀ and BSSs **8012**, **8026**, **8036**, **8008** represent interfering base station sectors sometimes referred denoted as BSS_s, e.g., BSS₁, BSS₂, BSS₃, BSS₄. In regard to a beacon ratio report communicated over connection **8003**, BSS **8026** is the serving BSS, sometimes denoted as BSS₀, and BSSs **8012**, **8016**, **8036**, **8008** represent interfering base station sectors, sometimes denoted BSS_s, e.g., BSS₁, BSS₂, BSS₃, BSS₄.

From BSS **8016**, the wireless terminal receives and processes beacon signals **8011** communicated in both tone block 1 and tone block 2 and pilot tone signal **8009** communicated in tone block 1. Note that WT **8010** is timing synchronized with respect to the BSS **8016** tone block 1 attachment point and thus can accurately measure the pilot channel. From BSS **8026**, the wireless terminal receives and processes beacon signals **8017** communicated in both tone block 1 and tone block 2 and pilot tone signal **8015** communicated in tone block 2. Note that WT **8010** is timing synchronized with respect to the BSS **8026** tone block 2 attachment point and thus can accurately measure the pilot channel. From each interfering BSS (**8012**, **8036**, **8008**), the wireless terminal **8010** receives and processes beacon signals (**8005**, **8021**, **8025**), respectively, communicated in tone block 1 and tone block 2. In addition uplink load factor information signals

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(**8013**, **8007**, **8019**, **8023**, **8027**) are communicated from each of the BSSs (**8016**, **8012**, **8026**, **8036**, **8008**), respectively. These uplink load factor information signals (**8013**, **8007**, **8019**, **8023**, **8027**) are communicated as broadcast signal, but may or may not be successfully recovered, e.g., as their per tone transmission power level is lower than a beacon's. Where an uplink loading factor can not be successfully recovered, a default value, e.g., a value of 1, is used in the beacon ratio report calculation.

In the example of FIG. 16, the two connections use different tone blocks. Gain ratios computed for beacon ratio reports to be communicated over connection **18001** can use received pilot tone signals **8009** of tone block 1 from base station sector **8016** and received beacon signals from the other base station sectors. Gain ratios computed for beacon ratio reports to be communicated over connection **28003** can use received pilot tone signals **8015** of tone block 2 from base station sector **8026** and received beacon signals from the other base station sectors.

In some exemplary embodiments, with respect to a base station sector, the OFDM signals from one tone block are accurately synchronized with respect to the OFDM symbols from another tone block. Consider that the BSS uses a common transmitter and generates a single OFDM symbol corresponding to the three tone blocks, e.g. a single OFDM symbol including **339** tones comprising three tone blocks of **113** tones each. In some such embodiments, gain ratios computed for beacon ratio reports to be communicated over connection **18001** can use received pilot tone signals of tone block 1 from base station sector **8016**, received pilot tone signal of tone block 1 from BSS **8026** and received beacon signals from the other base station sectors; gain ratios computed for beacon ratio reports to be communicated over connection **28003** can use received pilot tone signals of tone block 2 from base station sector **8026**, received pilot tone signal of tone block 2 from BSS **8016** and received beacon signals from the other base station sectors.

FIG. 17, comprising the combination of FIG. 17A, FIG. 17B, FIG. 17C, and FIG. 17D is a flowchart **5500** of an exemplary method of operating a wireless terminal, e.g., mobile node, in accordance with various embodiments. Operation starts in step **5502**, where the wireless terminal is powered on and initialized. Operation proceeds from step **5502** to step **5504**, step **5506** and, via connecting node A **5505** to step **5508**.

In step **5504**, the wireless terminal is operated to receive beacon and pilot signals corresponding to a first current base station connection. Operation proceeds from step **5504** to step **5510**. In step **5510**, the wireless terminal measures the power of the received beacon signal (PB_0) and received pilot channel signals (PP_0) for the first current base station sector connection. Operation proceeds from step **5510** to step **5512**. In step **5512**, the wireless terminal derives first current connection base station sector transmitter information, e.g., a BSS_slope and a BSS_sector type from the received beacon signal. Step **5512** includes sub-step **5513**. In sub-step **5513**, the wireless terminal determines a power transmission tier level associated with the first current connection base station sector and tone block being used.

In step **5506**, the wireless terminal receives beacon signals from one or more interfering base station sectors to which the wireless terminal does not have a current connection and/or receives beacon and pilot signals from one or more interfering base station sectors to which the wireless terminal has a current connection. Operation proceeds from step **5506** to step **5514** for each interfering base station sector (BSS_i) to which the wireless terminal has a current connection. Subse-

quent operations **5514**, **5518**, **5520** are performed for each such interfering base station sector, e.g., interfering base station sector, (BSS_i). Operation proceeds from step **5506** to step **5516** for each interfering base station sector (BSS_i) to which the wireless terminal does not have a current connection. Subsequent operations **5516**, **5522**, **5524** are performed for each such interfering base station sector, e.g., interfering base station sector, (BSS_i).

In step **5514**, the wireless terminal measures the power of the received beacon signal (PB_i) and received pilot channel signals (PP_i) for the interfering current base station sector connection. Operation proceeds from step **5514** to step **5518**. In step **5518**, the wireless terminal derives interfering current connection base station sector transmitter information, e.g., a BSS_slope and a BSS_sector type from the received beacon signal. Step **5518** includes sub-step **5519**. In sub-step **5519**, the wireless terminal determines a power transmission tier level associated with the interfering current connection base station sector and tone block being used.

Operation proceeds from steps **5512** and step **5518** to step **5520** via connecting node B **5521**. In step **5520** the wireless terminal computes a channel gain ratio using the method of sub-step **5538** or the method of sub-step **5540** or the method of sub-step **5541**. In sub-step **5538**, the wireless terminal uses beacon signal information to compute the channel gain ratio, G_i . Sub-step **5538** includes sub-step **5542**, where the wireless terminal computes $G_i = PB_i / PB_0$.

In sub-step **5540**, the wireless terminal uses beacon signal information and pilot signal information to compute the channel gain ratio G_i . Sub-step **5540** includes sub-step **5544**. In sub-step **5544**, the wireless terminal computes $G_i = PB_i / (PP_0 * K * Z_0)$, where K =per tone transmitter power beacon reference level for a tier 0 tone block/per tone transmitter pilot signal reference level for a tier 0 tone block, and Z_0 =power scale factor associated with the a power transmission tier level of the tone block for the first current base station sector connection transmitter tone block.

In sub-step **5541**, the wireless terminal uses pilot signal information to compute the channel gain ratio G_i . Sub-step **5541** includes sub-step **5546**. In sub-step **5546**, the wireless terminal computes $G_i = (PP_i * Z_i) / (PP_0 * Z_0)$, where Z_0 =power scale factor associated with the power transmission tier level of the tone block for the first current base station sector connection transmitter tone block and Z_i =power scale factor associated with the a power transmission tier level of the tone block for the BSS_i connection transmitter tone block. Operation proceeds from step **5520** via connecting node D **5534** to step **5536**, where the wireless terminal generates one or more interference reports.

In step **5516**, the wireless terminal measures the power of received beacon signal (PB_i) for the interfering base station sector. Operation proceeds from step **5516** to step **5522**. In step **5522**, the wireless terminal derives interfering base station sector transmitter information, e.g., a BSS_slope and a BSS_sector type from the received beacon signal. Step **5522** includes sub-step **5523**. In sub-step **5523**, the wireless terminal determines a power transmission tier level associated with an interfering base station sector and tone block being used.

Operation proceeds from steps **5512** and step **5522** to step **5524** via connecting node C **5525**. In step **5524** the wireless terminal computes a channel gain ratio using the method of sub-step **5526** or the method of sub-step **5528**.

In sub-step **5526**, the wireless terminal uses beacon signal information to compute the channel gain ratio, G_i . Sub-step **5526** includes sub-step **5530**, where the wireless terminal computes $G_i = PB_i / PB_0$.

In sub-step **5528**, the wireless terminal uses beacon signal information and pilot signal information to compute the channel gain ratio G_i . Sub-step **5528** includes sub-step **5532**, where the wireless terminal computes $G_i = PB_i / (PP_0 * K * Z_0)$, where K =per tone transmitter power beacon reference level for a tier 0 tone block/per tone transmitter pilot signal reference level for a tier 0 tone block, and Z_0 =power scale factor associated with the a power transmission tier level of the tone block for the current base station sector connection transmitter tone block.

Operation proceeds from step **5524** via connecting node D **5534** to step **5536**, where the wireless terminal generates one or more interference reports.

Returning to step **5508**, in step **5508** the wireless terminal is operated to receive broadcast load factor information signals from the first current serving base station sector transmitter and from interfering base station sector transmitters. For each base station sector under consideration, operation proceeds to step **5548**. In step **5548** the wireless terminal determines whether or not the load factor was successfully recovered from the received signal. If the load factor was successfully recovered from the received signal operation proceeds to step **5550**, where the wireless terminal stores the load factor. For example load factor b_0 =the load factor for the current first serving base station sector, and load factor b_k =the load factor for interfering base station section k. If the load factor was not successfully recovered from the received signal then operation proceeds to step **5552**, where the wireless terminal sets the load factor to 1. Load factors (b_0 , **5554**, b_1 , **5556**, \dots , b_k , **5558**, \dots , b_n , **5560**) are obtained, with each load factor being sourced from one of steps **5550** and step **5552**.

Returning to step **5536**, in step **5536** the wireless terminal generates one or more interference reports. Step **5536** includes sub-step **5562** and sub-step **5564**. In sub-step **5562**, the wireless terminal generates a specific type report conveying interference by a specific interfering base station sector to the first serving base station sector. Step **5562** includes sub-step **5566**. In sub-step **5566**, the wireless terminal computes the report value= $(b_0 / Z_0) / (G_k * b_k / Z_k)$, where b_0 is the loading factor of the current serving BSS and b_k is the loading factor if an interfering BSS to which the report corresponds, $G_k = G_i$ for $i=k$, and Z_0 is the power scale factor associated with the power transmission tier level of the tone block for the current first BSS connection transmitter tone block, and Z_k is the power scale factor associated with the power transmission tier level of the tone block for the interfering base station sector to which the report corresponds.

sub-step **5564**, the wireless terminal generates a generic type report conveying information of interference by one or more interfering BSSs to the serving first current BSS, e.g., using information from each of the measured beacon signals of interfering base station sectors including using load factor information and power scale factor information. Four alternative exemplary computations for a generic type report are included as sub-steps **5570**, **5572**, **5574**, **5576**. An exemplary embodiment of a generic type report, e.g., in an exemplary single carrier operation embodiment, is $b_0 / (\sum_k G_k * b_k)$. The summation is over each of the interfering BSSs that the wireless terminal can detect for the beacon or pilot signal. Another exemplary embodiment of a generic type report, e.g., in a single carrier operation embodiment, is $b_0 / (\max_k (G_k * b_k))$. Another exemplary embodiment of a generic type report, e.g., in an exemplary multi-carrier, e.g., three carrier, operation embodiment, is $(b_0 / Z_0) / (\sum_k (I_k * G_k * b_k / Z_k))$, where I_k is an indicator function of whether the uplink of the BSS_k is active in the current tone block: $I_k=1$ if the uplink of the BSS_k is active; $I_k=0$ if the BSS_k is inactive in the current tone block.

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The summation is over each of the interfering BBS_k that the wireless terminal can detect for the beacon or pilot signal. Another exemplary embodiment of a generic type report, e.g., in an exemplary multi-carrier, e.g., three carrier, operation embodiment, is $(b_0/Z_0)/(\max_k(I_k * G_k * b_k/Z_k))$, where I_k is an indicator function of whether the uplink of the BBS_k is active in the current tone block: $I_k=1$ if the uplink of the BBS_k is active; $I_k=0$ if the BBS_k is inactive in the current tone block.

In some embodiments, step 5536 includes quantization. For example, an exemplary beacon ratio report conveys 4 information bits representing one of 16 levels ranging from -4 dBs to 28 dBs. Table 1100 of FIG. 11 for an exemplary 4-bit downlink beacon ratio report (DLBNR4) is such a representation.

Operation proceeds from step 5536 to step 5568 where the wireless terminal is operated to transmit the report to the first current serving base station sector serving as the current attachment point for the wireless terminal. In some embodiments, the transmission of a report is in response to a request from the serving base station sector. In some embodiments, the type of report transmitted, e.g., specific or generic, is in response to received signaling from a base station sector identifying the type of report. In some embodiments, the transmission of a particular specific type report reporting on interference associated with a particular base station sector is in response to a received base station signal identifying the particular base station sector. In various embodiments, interference reports are transmitted periodically in accordance with a reporting schedule being followed by the wireless terminal, e.g., as part of dedicated control channel structure. In some such embodiments, for at least some of the interference reports transmitted, the base station does not signal any report selection information to select the report. In some embodiments, the base station alternates between calculating between two types of generic beacon ratio reports, e.g., a first type using a summation of information from each of the received interfering BSSs, and a second type based on information from the single worst interfering BSS, as a function of current position in a recurring timing structure. For example, the first type of generic beacon ratio report is calculated when the beacon slot index is even within an ultraslot, and the second type of generic beacon ratio report is calculated when the beacon slot index is odd within the ultra slot. In some embodiments, the WT only sends generic beacon ratio reports by default and only sends a specific beacon ratio report when request to do so by the base station.

In some embodiments, the system includes a plurality of power transmission tier levels, e.g., three, with a different power scale factor associated with each tier level. For example, in one exemplary embodiment a power scale factor of 0 dB is associated with a tier level 0 tone block, while a power scale factor of 6 dB is associated with a tier 1 level tone block, and a power scale factor of 12 dB is associated with a tier 2 tone block. In some embodiments, each attachment point corresponds to a base station sector transmitter and a tone block, and each attachment point BSS transmitter tone block may be associated with a power transmission tier level. In some embodiments there are a plurality of downlink tones blocks, e.g., three tone block (tone block 0, tone block 1, tone block 2) each having 113 contiguous evenly spaced tones. In some embodiments, the same tone block, e.g., tone block 0, used different base station sector transmitters, has a different power transmission tier level associated with the different base station sector transmitters. A wireless terminal, identifying a particular attachment point, corresponding to a base station sector transmitter and tone block, e.g., from information conveyed via its beacon signal using tone location and/or

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time position with a recurring transmission pattern, can use stored information to associate the identified attachment point with a particular power transmission tier level and power scale factor for a particular tone block.

In some embodiments, the loading factor, e.g., b_k , is a value greater than or equal to 0 and less than or equal to one. In some embodiments, the value is communicated from a base station sector to a wireless terminal represents one of a plurality of levels, e.g., 0 dB, -1 dB, -2 dB, -3 dB, -4 dB, -6 dB, -9 dB, - infinity dB. Table 950 of FIG. 10 illustrates exemplary uplink loading factor information that may be communicated by a base station sector via a downlink broadcast channel.

In some embodiments, the beacon signals are transmitted at the same power from a base station sector transmitter irrespective of power transmission tier associated with the tone block being used; however, other downlink signals, e.g., pilot signals, are affected by the power transmission tier associated with the tone block for the base station sector transmitter. In some embodiments, the parameter K is at value greater than or equal to 6 dB. For example in one exemplary embodiment the parameter $K=23.8 \text{ dB}-7.2 \text{ dB}=16.6 \text{ dB}$.

FIG. 18 is a drawing 1800 of exemplary timing structure information and corresponding interference reporting information, e.g., beacon ratio report reporting information, for an exemplary embodiment. The exemplary timing structure includes uplink ultraslots as indicated by row 1802 showing uplink ultraslot with index=0 followed by uplink ultraslot with index=1. In the exemplary embodiment, each ultraslot includes 18 indexed beacons slots as indicated by row 1804. Each beacons slot includes, e.g., 912 consecutive OFDM symbol transmission time periods. In this exemplary embodiment, a wireless terminal can report two different types of beacon ratio reports to a serving base station sector, e.g., via dedicated control channel segments, the first type of beacon ratio report being a generic beacon ratio report and the second type of beacon ratio report being a specific beacon ratio report, sometimes referred to as a special beacon ratio report. The first type of beacon ratio report is a generic beacon ratio report and two sub-types of generic beacon ratio reports are used. A first sub-type of generic beacon ratio report determines a report value as a function of the summation of one or more interfering base stations sectors. A second sub-type of generic beacon ratio report determines a report value as a function of a maximum, e.g., the worst case individual base station sector in terms of the interference value. As indicated by row 1806, the sub-type of generic beacon ratio report to use is a function of the beacons slot index. For even values of the beacons slot index (0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16) a wireless terminal, when transmitting a generic beacon ratio report uses a summation function to determine the report. For odd values of the beacons slot index (1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17) a wireless terminal, when transmitting a generic beacon ratio report uses a maximum function to determine the report. Row 1808 indicates that a wireless terminal, when transmitting a specific beacon ratio report communicates a report corresponding to a base station sector identified in a request and having a sector type which is a function of the beacons slot index value. For example, consider that three different sector types are used (sector type 0, sector type 1, and sector type 2). A request signal from the serving base station sector requesting specific type of beacon ratio reports may include a cell identifier value, e.g., a slope value, and the uplink timing structure in which the report is communicated may determine the sector type. For example, for beacons slots with index=(0, 3, 6, 9, 12, 15) a wireless terminal, when reporting a specific beacon ratio report, reports a specific beacon ratio report relating the serving base station sector to another base station sector identified

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by a communicated cell identifier value and having sector type=0. For beaconslots with index=(1, 4, 7, 10, 13, 16) a wireless terminal, when reporting a specific beacon ratio report, reports a specific beacon ratio report relating the serving base station sector to another base station sector identified by a communicated cell identifier value and having sector type=1. For beaconslots with index=(2, 5, 8, 11, 14, 17) a wireless terminal, when reporting a specific beacon ratio report, reports a specific beacon ratio report relating the serving base station sector to another base station sector identified by a communicated cell identifier value and having sector type=2.

It should be observed that by implementing this predetermined timing structure based reporting format, understood by both the base station and the wireless terminal, the system supports a variety of reporting formats while limiting the amount of signaling overhead. In addition, it should be observed that for the specific beacon ratio report, identification of a base station sector of interest is obtained partly by information included in a request signal and partly by position in the uplink timing structure, thus fewer bits are needed for overhead signaling to identify a base station sector of interest.

FIG. 19 illustrates in drawing 1900, for an exemplary embodiment, exemplary beacon ratio report request downlink signaling and exemplary uplink beacon ratio report signaling. In FIG. 1900, base station sector 1902, a current attachment point for wireless terminal 1904, sends a downlink traffic channel control signal 1906 including information in a request for beacon ratio report field 1908, e.g., as part of downlink traffic control channel flash signal. In some embodiments, the signal including the request for beacon ratio report field is a broadcast signal, e.g., intended for use by multiple wireless terminals. Thus, an individual control signal is broadcast for multiple connected wireless terminals to use thus reducing the level of overhead control signaling that would otherwise be needed if each wireless terminal was individually controlled with respect to the type of interference report to send. In some embodiments, a single request for beacon ratio report downlink signal may correspond to multiple uplink interference reports to be communicated by a wireless terminal. In some embodiments, a single request for beacon ratio report downlink signal corresponds to a single uplink interference report for an individual wireless terminal. In some embodiments, a single request for beacon ratio report downlink signal corresponds to a single interference uplink report for each of a plurality of different wireless terminals. The request for beacon ratio report field includes a value indicating the request. Table 1901 is an exemplary request for beacon ratio report field reporting format that may be used by BSS 1902 and WT 1904. First column 1918 of table 1901 indicates values conveyed by the report; second column 1920 includes the information conveyed by the corresponding value. If the value is a zero, the wireless terminal is to report a generic beacon ratio report. If the value is a non-zero positive integer, the wireless terminal is to report a specific beacon ratio report, and the value corresponds to a cell identifier parameter, e.g., a slope value, used by the base station sector of interest. The slope value is, in some embodiments, a value corresponding to slope of pilot tone signals. However, in some embodiments, multiple base station sectors within the same cell use the same value for slope, and thus uplink timing information is also used to determine the particular base station sector of interest to be used for a particular specific beacon ratio report, e.g., timing information indicated by rows 1808.

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In some other embodiments, a wireless terminal transmits a first type of report by default, and a second type of report if a request for beacon ratio report signal is communicated. For example, generic beacon ratio reports may be communicated by default, and if a base station wants specific type beacon ratio reports to be communicated, then the base station communicates a request for beacon ratio report signal including cell identifier information.

Dedicated control channel segment signal 1910 includes a beacon ratio report 1912 in accordance with request information and uplink timing structure information. Dedicated control channel segment signal 1914 includes a beacon ratio report 1916 in accordance with request information and uplink timing structure information. For example, consider that request field 1908 conveyed a value of 0, that report 1912 corresponds to a beacon ratio report communicated during a beaconslot with index=0, and that report 1916 corresponds to a beacon ratio report communicated during a beaconslot with index=1. Beacon ratio report 1912 is a generic beacon ratio report using a summation function to compute the report value, the report relating detected base station sectors of the same tone block to the serving base station sector; beacon ratio report 1916 is a generic beacon ratio report using a maximum function to compute the report value, the report relating detected base station sectors of the same tone block to the serving base station sector. Now consider that request field 1908 conveyed a value of 1, that report 1912 corresponds to a beacon ratio report communicated during a beaconslot with index=0, and that report 1916 corresponds to a beacon ratio report communicated during a beaconslot with index=1. Beacon ratio report 1912 is a specific beacon ratio report relating the current serving base station sector attachment point to a local base station sector identified by slope value=1 and having a sector type=0 and using the same tone block as the serving base station sector; beacon ratio report 1916 is a specific beacon ratio report relating the current serving base station sector attachment point to a local base station sector identified by slope value=1 and having a sector type=1 and using the same tone block as the serving base station sector.

FIG. 20 is a drawing of an exemplary communications system 2000 implemented in accordance with various embodiments. Exemplary communications system 2000 includes a plurality of base stations (BS 1 2001, BS 2 2002, BS 3 2003, BS 4 2004, BS 5 2005, BS 6 2006, BS 7 2007, BS 8 2008, BS 9 2009, BS 10 2010) coupled together via a backhaul network. The BSs (2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010) are three sector base stations. BS 1 2001 includes: a first sector 2012 with a slope value=2 and a sector type value=0, a second sector 2014 with a slope value=2 and a sector type value=1, and a third sector 2016 with a slope value=2 and a sector type value=2. BS 2 2002 includes: a first sector 2018 with a slope value=1 and a sector type value=0, a second sector 2020 with a slope value=1 and a sector type value=1, and a third sector 2022 with a slope value=1 and a sector type value=2. BS 3 2003 includes: a first sector 2024 with a slope value=1 and a sector type value=0, a second sector 2026 with a slope value=1 and a sector type value=1, and a third sector 2028 with a slope value=1 and a sector type value=2. BS 4 2004 includes: a first sector 2030 with a slope value=2 and a sector type value=0, a second sector 2032 with a slope value=2 and a sector type value=1, and a third sector 2034 with a slope value=2 and a sector type value=2. BS 5 2005 includes: a first sector 2036 with a slope value=3 and a sector type value=0, a second sector 2038 with a slope value=3 and a sector type value=1, and a third sector 2040 with a slope value=3 and a sector type value=2. BS 6 2006 includes: a first sector 2042 with a slope value=4 and a

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sector type value=0, a second sector **2044** with a slope value=4 and a sector type value=1, and a third sector **2046** with a slope value=4 and a sector type value=2. BS **7 2007** includes: a first sector **2048** with a slope value=5 and a sector type value=0, a second sector **2050** with a slope value=5 and a sector type value=1, and a third sector **2052** with a slope value=5 and a sector type value=2. BS **8 2008** includes: a first sector **2054** with a slope value=6 and a sector type value=0, a second sector **2056** with a slope value=6 and a sector type value=1, and a third sector **2058** with a slope value=6 and a sector type value=2. BS **9 2009** includes: a first sector **2060** with a slope value=7 and a sector type value=0, a second sector **2062** with a slope value=7 and a sector type value=1, and a third sector **2064** with a slope value=7 and a sector type value=2. BS **10 2010** includes: a first sector **2066** with a slope value=8 and a sector type value=0, a second sector **2068** with a slope value=8 and a sector type value=1, and a third sector **2070** with a slope value=8 and a sector type value=2.

The exemplary communications system **2000** also includes a plurality of wireless terminals. Exemplary WT A **2072** and exemplary WT B **2074** are shown connected to base station **5 2005** second sector **2038** via wireless links (**2076**, **2078**), respectively. Base station sector **5 2005** second sector **2038** attachment point sends broadcast downlink traffic channel control signals including a request for beacon ratio report field value, e.g., as indicated in FIG. 19. WT A **2072** is in an On state of operation, and has been allocated uplink dedicated control channel segments for communicating uplink control reports, some of the uplink reports are to be interference reports, e.g., beacon ratio reports. Similarly WT B **2074** is in an On state of operation, and has been allocated uplink dedicated control channel segments for communicating uplink control reports, some of the uplink reports are to be interference reports, e.g., beacon ratio reports. The WTs (**2072**, **2074**) receive the broadcast request for beacon ratio report information in determining the type of beacon ratio report to be communicated. In some embodiments, the information is used in conjunction with timing structure information in determining the information to be included in an uplink interference report.

It should be observed that the slope value used as a base station identifier is locally unique but is not unique in the system **2000**. For example slope value=1 is used as a cell identifier by both BS **1 2001** and BS **3 2003**. However, there is no ambiguity between the WT and base station attachment point as to which base station is the intended target. By using a locally unique base station identifier, as opposed to a system unique base station identifier, in control signaling, the number of bits needed to represent the base station is reduced thus allowing control signaling overhead to be reduced in a system utilizing a large number of base stations. The same principle can, and in various embodiments, are used for base stations including a large number of sectors. For example, an exemplary five sector base station may use three different sector types with two of the sector type values being used twice.

FIG. 21 is a drawing **2100** illustrating exemplary downlink control signaling and uplink interference reporting, e.g., beacon ratio reporting, corresponding to system **2000** of FIG. 20. First row **2104** includes a time line indicating when specific reporting of beacon ratio reports is possible corresponding different base station sector types. In this example, there are three different sector types (sector type 0, sector type 1, and sector type 2). In accordance with this embodiment, the reporting structure alternates between the three types, e.g., with each block representing the time interval of a beacon slot (see FIG. 18). Second row **2106** indicates the request for beacon ratio report value included in a broadcast downlink

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traffic control channel signal (see FIG. 19). Third row **2108** indicates the WT A communicated report type, where G=generic report and S=specific report. Fourth row **2110** indicates, for WT A specific reports, the base station and base station sector type to be used in calculating the specific report. Fifth row **2112** indicates the WT B communicated report type, where G=generic report and S=specific report. Sixth row **2114** indicates, for WT B specific reports, the base station and base station sector type to be used in calculating the specific report.

The first value of row **2106** is a 0 indicating that the corresponding interference reports should be generic type reports. Therefore both WT A and WT B transmit generic uplink beacon ratio reports. The second value of row **2096** is a 4 indicating that the corresponding reports should be specific type reports corresponding to a local base station sector using slope value=4. The time for the corresponding uplink beacon ratio reports is within the beacon slot used for sector type 0. Therefore the WTs transmit specific beacon ratio reports to BS **5** sector **2038** relating base station **6** sector type **0** sector **2042** to base station **5** sector type **1** sector **2038**. The third and fourth values of row **2106** are 0, and therefore the corresponding beacon ratio reports are generic beacon ratio reports. The fifth value of row **2106** is a 1 indicating that the corresponding reports should be specific type reports corresponding to a local base station sector using slope value=1. The time for the corresponding uplink beacon ratio reports is within the beacon slot used for sector type 2. Therefore the WTs transmit specific beacon ratio reports to BS **5** sector **2038** relating base station **3** sector type **2** sector **2028** to base station **5** sector **1 2038**. The sixth value of row **2106** is 0, and therefore the corresponding beacon ratio reports are generic beacon ratio reports. The seventh value of row **2106** is a 2 indicating that the reports should be specific type reports corresponding to a local base station sector using slope value=2. The time for the corresponding uplink beacon ratio reports is within the beacon slot used for sector type 0. Therefore the WTs transmit specific beacon ratio reports to BS **5** sector **2038** relating base station **4** sector type **0** sector **2030** to base station **5** sector **1 2038**. The eighth, ninth and tenth values of row **2106** are 0, and therefore the corresponding beacon ratio reports are generic beacon ratio reports. The eleventh value of row **2106** is a 2 indicating that the reports should be specific type reports corresponding to a local base station sector using slope value=2. The time for the corresponding uplink beacon ratio reports is within the beacon slot used for sector type 2. Therefore the WTs transmit specific beacon ratio reports to BS **5** sector **2038** relating base station **4** sector type **2** sector **2034** to base station **5** sector **1 2038**. The twelfth, thirteenth and fourteenth values of row **2096** are 0, and therefore the corresponding beacon ratio reports are generic beacon ratio reports.

In this exemplary embodiment, there is a fixed relationship in the timing structure between downlink control channel signals including request for beacon ratio reports and corresponding uplink interference reporting opportunities for the WTs, e.g., as indicated by the dotted line arrows. This linkage in the timing structure, understood by both base station and wireless terminal, reduces overhead signaling. In this exemplary embodiment, WT A and WT B transmit their uplink beacon ratio reports, corresponding to the same request, at different points in time in the uplink timing structure. For other embodiments and/or for other wireless terminals the reports may be communicated concurrently, e.g., using different tones in the tone block. In addition in some embodiments, the frequency of reporting by one WT may be different than the frequency of reporting by a different wireless terminal.

nal, e.g., over a given time interval as one wireless terminal may be in a different reporting mode of operation with respect to the other wireless terminal.

Although illustrated for two exemplary wireless terminals, it is to be understood that, in some embodiments, the same request for beacon ratio report broadcast control signal may be, and sometimes is utilized by many additional wireless terminals using the base station sector attachment point. For example, consider one exemplary embodiment in which a base station sector attachment point can have up to 31 concurrent On state users, and each on the On state users receives a dedicated control channel for transmitting uplink control channel reports including beacon ratio reports, each On-state user can receive and utilize the same broadcast request for beacon ratio report downlink signal.

FIG. 22 is a drawing of a flowchart 2200 of an exemplary method of operating a wireless terminal in accordance with various embodiments. The exemplary method starts in step 2202 where the wireless terminal is powered on and initialized. Operation proceeds from start step 2202 to steps 2204, 2206, 2208, and in some embodiments, step 2210. In step 2204, the wireless terminal monitors to detect received broadcast signals communicating uplink loading factors, each broadcast uplink loading factor corresponding to an attachment point. In step 2206, the wireless terminal is operated to receive a first signal, e.g., a beacon or pilot signal, from a first attachment point. In step 2208, the wireless terminal is operated to receive a second signal, e.g., a beacon or pilot signal, from a second attachment point. In step 2210, when performed, the wireless terminal is operated to receive a third signal, e.g., a beacon or pilot signal, from a third attachment point.

Operation proceeds from step 2206 to step 2226, where the wireless terminal performs a first measurement, e.g., a signal power measurement, on the received first signal. Operation proceeds from step 2208 to step 2228, where the wireless terminal performs a second measurement, e.g., a signal power measurement, on the received second signal. Operation proceeds from step 2210 to step 2230, where the wireless terminal performs a third measurement, e.g., a signal power measurement, on the received third signal. Operation proceeds from steps 2226, 2228 and 2230 to step 2232.

Returning to step 2204, in step 2204, the wireless outputs received uplink loading factor information which is forwarded to be used in step 2232. Corresponding to the first attachment point, at which the wireless terminal has a connection, the wireless terminal outputs received 1st uplink loading factor information 2212. Corresponding to the second attachment point the wireless terminal may or may not have been able to detect and recover an uplink loading factor. In step 2214, if the wireless terminal has detected and recovered an uplink loading factor corresponding to the second attachment point the wireless terminal forwards the received 2nd uplink loading factor information 2216 to be used in step 2232. However, if the wireless terminal has not detected and recovered an uplink loading factor corresponding to the second attachment point, the wireless terminal sets the 2nd uplink loading factor to a default value, e.g., a value of 1, in step 2218, the default value to be used in step 2232. Corresponding to the third attachment point the wireless terminal may or may not have been able to detect and recover an uplink loading factor. In step 2220, if the wireless terminal has detected and recovered an uplink loading factor corresponding to the third attachment point the wireless terminal forwards the received 3rd uplink loading factor information 2222 to be used in step 2232. However, if the wireless terminal has not detected and recovered an uplink loading factor correspond-

ing to the third attachment point, the wireless terminal sets the 3rd uplink loading factor to a default value, e.g., a value of 1, in step 2224, the default value to be used in step 2232.

step 2232, the wireless terminal generates an uplink interference report based on the measurement of the first signal, a first received uplink loading factor corresponding to the first attachment point, and using the results of the second measurement. Step 2232 includes step 2234, in which the wireless terminal determines a ratio of first and second values, said first value being a function of a product of the 1st loading factor and the result of the first signal measurement and wherein the second value is a function of the second result of the second measurement. In some embodiments, the second value is also a function of a product of a second loading factor corresponding to the second attachment point and the result of the second signal measurement.

In some embodiments, e.g., some embodiments where three or more received signals from three different attachment points are used in generating an interference report, step 2234 includes step 2236. In step 2236 the wireless terminal uses the result of the third measurement to generate the second value. Step 2236 includes sub-step 2238 and sub-step 2240, one of which is performed to generate an interference report. In some embodiments, at different times different ones of sub-steps 2238 and 2240 are used to generate the interference report. In sub-step 2238, the wireless terminal sums third and fourth values, said third value being a function of the result of the second signal measurement, said fourth value being a function of the result of the third signal measurement. In sub-step 2240, the wireless terminal sets the second value to be the maximum of third and fourth values, said third value being a function of the result of the second signal measurement, said fourth value being a function of the result of the third signal measurement.

Operation proceeds from step 2232 to step 2242. In step 2242, the wireless terminal transmits the generated uplink interference report from step 2232.

In some embodiments the first and second signals are OFDM signals. In some other embodiments, the first and second signals are CDMA signals.

In some embodiments, for at least some interference reports, the first value is generated according to the following equation: $b_0 PB_0$; and the second value is generated according to the following equation: $b_1 PB_1 + b_2 PB_2$; where b_0 is the loading factor corresponding to the first attachment point; wherein PB_0 is the measured power of a received beacon signal from the first attachment point; wherein b_1 is a loading factor corresponding to the second attachment point; wherein PB_1 is the measured power of a received beacon signal from the second attachment point; wherein b_2 is a loading factor corresponding to the third attachment point; and wherein PB_2 is the measured power of a received beacon signal from the third attachment point.

In some embodiments, for at least some interference reports, the first value is generated according to the following equation: $b_0 PB_0$; and the second value is generated according to the following equation: $\text{MAX}(b_1 PB_1, b_2 PB_2)$; where b_0 is the loading factor corresponding to the first attachment point; wherein PB_0 is the measured power of a received beacon signal from the first attachment point; wherein b_1 is a loading factor corresponding to the second attachment point; wherein PB_1 is the measured power of a received beacon signal from the second attachment point; wherein b_2 is a loading factor corresponding to the third attachment point; and wherein PB_2 is the measured power of a received beacon signal from the third attachment point.

FIG. 23 is a drawing of an exemplary wireless terminal 2300 implemented in accordance with various embodiments. Exemplary wireless terminal 2300 includes a receiver module 2302, a transmitter module 2304, a processor 2306, user I/O devices 2308, and a memory 2310 coupled together via a bus 2312 over which the various elements may interchange data and information. Memory 2310 includes routines 2318 and data/information 2320. The processor 2306, e.g., a CPU, executes the routines 2318 and uses the data/information 2320 in memory 2310 to control the operation of the wireless terminal 2300 and implement methods.

Receiver module 2302, e.g., an OFDM receiver, is coupled to receive antenna 2314 via which the wireless terminal 2300 receives downlink signals from base station attachment points, said downlink signals including broadcast signals conveying uplink attachment point loading factors, beacon signals, and pilot signals. Transmitter module 2304, e.g., an OFDM transmitter, is coupled to transmit antenna 2316 via which the wireless terminal 2300 transmits uplink signals to base station attachment points, said uplink signals including generated interference reports, e.g., beacon ratio reports communicated via dedicated control channel segments. In some embodiments, the same antenna is used for receiver and transmitter, e.g., in conjunction with a duplex module. In some other embodiments, the transmitter module 2304 is a CDMA transmitter and the receiver module 2302 is a CDMA receiver. In some embodiments the transmitter module 2304 and/or receiver module 2302 support both OFDM and CDMA signaling.

I/O devices 2308 include, e.g., microphone, keyboard, keypad, switches, camera, speaker, display, etc. I/O devices 2308 allow a user of WT 2300 to input data/information, access output data/information, control applications, and control at least some functions of the WT 2300, e.g., initiate a communications session.

Routines 2318 include communications routines 2322 and wireless terminal control routines 2324. The communications routines 2322 implement various communications protocols used by the wireless terminal 2300. The wireless terminal control routines 2324 include an uplink loading factor signal monitoring module 2326, a loading factor determination module 2328, a first measurement module 2330, a second measurement module 2332, and an interference report generation module 2334.

The uplink loading factor signal monitoring module 2326 detects received broadcast signals communicating at least one uplink loading factor, each broadcast uplink loading factor corresponding to an attachment point. The first measurement module 2330 measures received signals of a first type, e.g., first measurement module 2330 is a beacon signal measurement module which measures received beacon signals. The first signal measurement module 2330 includes a signal power measurement module 2331 which measures the power of received beacon signals. The second measurement module 2332 measures received signals of a second type, e.g., second measurement module 2332 is a pilot signal measurement module which measures received pilot signals. The second measurement module 2332 includes a signal power measurement module 2333 which measures the power of received pilot signals.

Interference report generation module 2334 generates an uplink interference report based on a measurement of a first received signal, e.g., a received beacon or pilot signal, and a first received uplink loading factor corresponding to a first attachment point. In various embodiments, the interference report generation module uses the measurement of a second signal, e.g., a received beacon or pilot signal, from a second

attachment point to generate an uplink interference report. The interference report generation module includes a first value generation module 2336, a second value generation module 2338, a summing module 2342, and a maximum value selector module 2344. The second value generation module 2338 includes a multiplier module 2340.

The first value generation module 2336 generates a first value 2384 as a function of a product of a first loading factor and the result of a first signal measurement. For example, the first loading factor may correspond to the attachment point of the current connection being used by the wireless terminal as its point of attachment, and the first signal may be a received beacon or pilot signal from the attachment point of the current connection.

Second value generation module 2338 generates a second value 2386 as a function of a result of a second measurement, e.g., the result of a measurement of a received beacon or pilot signal from a different attachment point than the one used by the first value generation module. For example, the second signal may be sourced from an attachment point in an adjacent sector and/or adjacent cell to the current serving attachment point.

Multiplier module 2340 is used for generating a product of a second loading factor corresponding to a second attachment point and the result of the second signal measurement.

In some embodiments, the interference report generation module 2334 generates at least one uplink interference report using the result of a third measurement of a third signal from a third attachment point to generate said second value.

Summing module 2342 sums third and fourth values (2388, 2390) said third value being a function of the result of the second signal measurement, said fourth value being a result function of the result of the third signal measurement. In some embodiments, for at least some interference reports, the first value is generated according to the following equation: $b_0 PB_0$; the second value is generated according to the following equation: $b_1 PB_1 + b_2 PB_2$; where b_0 is the loading factor corresponding to the first attachment point; wherein PB_0 is the measured power of a received beacon signal from the first attachment point; wherein b_1 is a loading factor corresponding to the second attachment point; wherein PB_1 is the measured power of a received beacon signal from the second attachment point; wherein b_2 is a loading factor corresponding to the third attachment point; and wherein PB_2 is the measured power of a received beacon signal from the third attachment point.

Maximum value sector module 2344, when utilized, sets the second value to be the maximum of third and fourth values (2388, 2390), said third value being a function of the result of the second signal measurement, said fourth value being a function of the result of the third signal measurement. In some embodiments, for at least some interference reports, the first value is generated according to the following equation: $b_0 PB_0$; and the second value is generated according to the following equation: $\text{MAX}(b_1 PB_1, b_2 PB_2)$; where b_0 is the loading factor corresponding to the first attachment point; wherein PB_0 is the measured power of a received beacon signal from the first attachment point; wherein b_1 is a loading factor corresponding to the second attachment point; wherein PB_1 is the measured power of a received beacon signal from the second attachment point; wherein b_2 is a loading factor corresponding to the third attachment point; and wherein PB_2 is the measured power of a received beacon signal from the third attachment point.

In some embodiments, for at least some of the interference reports generated at least some of said first, second and third signal measurements are measurements of pilot channel sig-

nals. In some embodiments, scaling factors are used to relate transmission powers of pilot signals to transmission powers of beacon signals and/or transmission powers of pilot signals from one attachment point to transmission powers of pilot signals from a different attachment point.

In some embodiments, the interference report generation module **2344** supports the generation of a variety of different types of reports, e.g., specific reports relating a current serving base station attachment point, to a single identified other base station attachment point, a generic report of a first sub-type relating a current serving base station to one or more, e.g., a plurality, of other base station sectors from which signals, e.g., beacons and/or pilots, are received and using a summation type function in generating the report, and a generic report of a second sub-type relating a current serving base station attachment point to one or more, e.g., a plurality, of other base station sectors from which signals, e.g., beacons and/or pilots, are received and using a summation type function in generating the report.

Loading factor determination module **2328** sets a loading factor to a default value in the absence of a successfully received loading factor corresponding to an attachment point of interest. For example, the loading factor determination module **2328** sets a second loading factor to a default value in the absence of a successfully received second loading factor from a second attachment point.

Data/information **2320** includes received beacon signal information **2346**, received pilot signal information **2348**, received uplink loading factor information **2350**, measured beacon information **2352**, measured pilot information **2354**, default uplink loading factor information **2356**, and interference report information **2358**. Received beacon signal information **2346** may include received beacon signal information corresponding to various attachment points (attachment point **1** information **2360**, . . . , attachment point **N** information **2362**). Received pilot signal information **2348** may include received pilot signal information corresponding to various attachment points (attachment point **1** information **2364**, . . . , attachment point **N** information **2366**). Received uplink loading factor information **2350** may include received uplink loading factor information corresponding to various attachment points (attachment point **1** information **2368**, . . . , attachment point **N** information **2370**). Measured beacon signal information **2352** may include measured beacon signal information corresponding to various attachment points (attachment point **1** information **2372**, . . . , attachment point **N** information **2374**). Measured pilot signal information **2354** may include measured pilot signal information corresponding to various attachment points (attachment point **1** information **2376**, . . . , attachment point **N** information **2378**). Default uplink loading factor information **2356** may include default uplink loading factor information corresponding to various attachment points (attachment point **1** information **2380**, . . . , attachment point **N** information **2382**).

At one given time the mixture of information stored and used in generating an uplink interference report may vary from the mixture of information stored at another point in time. For example at one give time, the wireless terminal may include received pilot signal and beacon signal information corresponding to attachment point **1**, received beacon signal information corresponding to attachment point **2**, received beacon signal information corresponding to attachment point **3**, received uplink loading factor information corresponding to attachment point **1**, received uplink loading factor information corresponding to attachment point **2**, measured pilot signal information corresponding to attachment point **1**, measured beacon signal information corresponding to attachment

point **1**, measured beacon signal information corresponding to attachment point **2**, measured beacon signal information corresponding to attachment point **3**, and default uplink loading factor information corresponding to attachment point **3**. Continuing with the example at another given time, the wireless terminal may include received pilot signal and beacon signal information corresponding to attachment point **1**, received beacon signal information corresponding to attachment point **2**, received pilot signal and received beacon signal information corresponding to attachment point **3**, received uplink loading factor information corresponding to attachment point **1**, received uplink loading factor information corresponding to attachment point **3**, measured pilot signal information corresponding to attachment point **1**, measured beacon signal information corresponding to attachment point **1**, measured beacon signal information corresponding to attachment point **2**, measured pilot signal information corresponding to attachment point **3**, measured beacon signal information corresponding to attachment point **3**, and default uplink loading factor information corresponding to attachment point **2**.

Interference report information **2358** includes a first value **2384**, a second value **2386**, a third value **2388**, a fourth value **2390**, a sum value **2392**, a max value **2394**, a determined ratio **2396**, and a quantized report value **2398**. First value **2384** is a result of operations of first value generation module **2366**, while second value **2386** is a result of operations of second value generation module **2338**. Third and fourth values (**2388**, **2390**) are intermediate processing values used in generating at least some interference reports, e.g., interference reports considering information from three or more different attachment points. Sum value **2392** is a result of an operation by summing module **2342**. Max value **2394** is a result of an operation of maximum value sector module **2344**. Determined ratio is a determined ratio of first and second values determined by interference report generation module. Quantized report value **2398** is a value which is one of a plurality of quantized levels to be communicated in an interference report to communicate a determined ratio **2396**.

FIG. **24** comprising the combination of FIG. **24A** and FIG. **24B** is a flowchart **2400** of an exemplary method of operating a wireless terminal. The exemplary method starts in step **2402**, where the wireless terminal is powered on and initialized. Operation proceeds from start step **2402** to steps **2404**, **2406** and **2408**.

In step **2404**, the wireless terminal receives base station identification information including a control signal communicating a locally unique base station identifier at which a second attachment point is located. In step **2406**, the wireless terminal receives a first signal, e.g., a beacon signal or a pilot signal, from a first attachment point with which said wireless terminal has a connection. In step **2408**, the wireless terminal receives signals, e.g., beacon and/or pilot signals, from one or more attachment points in addition to said first attachment point. Step **2406** includes sub-step **2412**, in which the wireless terminal receives a second signal, e.g., a beacon or pilot signal, from the second attachment point, said received base station identification information, from step **2404**, corresponding to the second attachment point. Step **2406**, at various times includes one or more additional sub-steps, corresponding to received signals, e.g., received beacon and/or pilot signals, from additional attachment points. For example, in sub-step **2414**, the wireless terminal receives an *N*th signal, e.g., a beacon or pilot signal, from an *N*th attachment point.

Operation proceeds from step **2406** to step **2410**. In step **2410** the wireless terminal performs a first measurement on the received first signal, e.g., a power measurement of the

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received first signal. Operation proceeds from sub-step 2412 to step 2416. In step 2416 the wireless terminal performs a second measurement on the received second signal, e.g., a power measurement of the received first signal. Operation proceeds from sub-step 2414 to step 2418. In step 2418 the wireless terminal performs an Nth measurement on the received Nth signal, e.g., a power measurement of the received Nth signal.

In some embodiments, e.g. some embodiments using multi-sector base stations, operation proceeds from step 2416 to step 2420. In other embodiments, e.g., some embodiments with a single sector base station per cell, operation proceeds from step 2416 to step 2422.

In step 2420, the wireless terminal determines a sector identifier corresponding to the received base station identifier from the time at which said control signal is received, said sector identifier identifying a sector which serves as the second attachment point. In some embodiments, the sector identifier is determined as a function of stored timing structure information and a time slot in the recurring structure to which said received signal time corresponds.

Operation proceeds from step 2420 to step 2422. In step 2422, the wireless terminal identifies the second signal, from among the one or more received signals of step 2408 corresponding to different attachment points, as a function of the received base station identification information. Operation proceeds from step 2422 to step 2424.

step 2424, the wireless terminal generates a report, e.g., an interference report such as a specific interference report, based on the measurement of the first and second signal. In some embodiments, the report is an interference report which is a ratio of a first value to a second value, the first value being a function of the measured power of the first signal and the second value being a function of the measured power of the second signal. Operation proceeds from step 2424 to step 2426. In step 2426, the wireless terminal determines a transmission time at which the generated report is to be transmitted according to a predetermined function that uses the time at which the control signal is received as a transmission time control input. In some embodiments, the predetermined function determines the transmission time to be at a time corresponding to a fixed predetermined offset from the time at which the control signal is received.

Operation proceeds from step 2426 to step 2428, where the generated report, e.g., the generated specific type interference report relating two attachment points, is transmitted. Operation proceeds from step 2428 via connecting node A 2430 to step 2432. In step 2432, the wireless terminal receives a control signal indicating that an interference report is to be based on signals received from a plurality of different transmitters in addition to said first attachment point. Operation proceeds from step 2432 to step 2434. In step 2434, the wireless terminal performs measurements on the plurality of signals received from the plurality of different transmitters and from the first attachment point. Operation proceeds from step 2434 to step 2436.

In step 2436, the wireless terminal generates a report, e.g., an interference report which is based on one of the sum and maximum of values derived from the results of said signals from different transmitters. For example, the generated interference report may be a generic type interference report of a first sub-type using a summation function in generating the report. Alternatively, the generated interference report may be a generic interference report of a second sub-type using a maximum function in generating the report. In some embodiments, step 2436 includes sub-step 2438. In sub-step 2438, the wireless terminal determines whether the interference

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report is to be based on the sum or maximum as a function of timing structure information. Operation proceeds from step 2436 to step 2440, where the wireless terminal transmits the generated report from step 2436.

In some embodiments, the step of receiving base station identification information, step 2404, includes receiving a broadcast signal from the first attachment point, said broadcast signal being used to control multiple wireless terminals. In this way signaling overhead is reduced from the amount that would otherwise be needed to individually signal such base station identification information individually to each of the wireless terminals being serviced by the first attachment point.

FIG. 25, comprising the combination of FIG. 25A and FIG. 25B is a flowchart 2500 of an exemplary method of operating a wireless terminal in accordance with various embodiments. Operation starts in step 2502, where the wireless terminal is powered on and initialized. Operation proceeds from start step 2502 to: step 2504, step 2506, step 2508, step 2533 via connecting node A 2532, step 2535 via connecting node B 2534, step 2544 via connecting node C 2536, and, in some embodiments, step 2546 via connecting node D 2538.

step 2504, the wireless terminal receives, on an ongoing basis, broadcast control signals which include request for interface report information from an attachment point of a current connection. For a received request, operation proceeds from step 2504 to step 2510. In step 2510, the wireless terminal determines from received request for interference report information the type of interference report requested, specific or generic, and for a specific type of report a locally unique cell identifier corresponding to an attachment point. Step 2510 includes sub-step 2512. In sub-step 2512, if the received request value is a zero, the wireless terminal determines that the requested report type is a generic report as indicated by report type =generic output 2514. In sub-step 2512, if the received value is non-zero, the wireless terminal determines that the requested report type is a specific report as indicated by report type=specific output 2516. In addition, if the received value is non-zero, the wireless terminal sets the cell identifier equal to the received request value, e.g., the positive request value being one of a potential set of positive integers each different potential positive integer corresponding to a different pilot channel slope value. The output cell identifier value is represented by output 2518.

step 2506, the wireless terminal receives, on an ongoing basis, beacon and/or pilot signals from the current attachment point. Operation proceeds from step 2506 to step 2520. In step 2520, the wireless terminal measures the strengths of received beacon and/or pilot signals from the current attachment point outputting current attachment point received signal strength information 2526.

step 2508, the wireless terminal receives, on an ongoing basis, beacon and/or pilot signals from additional attachment point(s). Operation proceeds from step 2508 to step 2522, and at some times to step 2524. In step 2522, the wireless terminal measures the strengths of received beacon and/or pilot signals from an additional attachment point outputting 1st additional attachment point received signal strength information 2528. In step 2524, the wireless terminal measures the strengths of received beacon and/or pilot signals from a different additional attachment point outputting Nth additional attachment point received signal strength information 2530.

Returning to step 2533, in step 2533 the wireless terminal receives wireless terminal On state identification information associated with a dedicated control channel structure, said dedicated control channel structure including reporting times in the recurring structure for interference reports to be trans-

mitted by the wireless terminal to the current attachment point. Step 2533 outputs information identifying segments to be used for interference reports 2540.

Returning to step 2535, in step 2535 the wireless terminal tracks, on an ongoing basis, timing in a recurring timing structure being used by the current connection and output current time information 2542, e.g., index information in a recurring OFDM timing structure.

Returning to step 2544, in step 2544 the wireless terminal determines, on an ongoing basis, is an interference report to be communicated. Step 2544 uses as input current time information 2542 and information identifying segments for interference reports 2540 as well as timing structure information pertaining to the current connection. If it is determined in step 2544 that an interference report is to be communicated, operation proceeds from step 2544 to step 2552, step 2558 and step 2566.

In step 2552, the wireless terminal determines does the time correspond to 1st or 2nd type generic report. If the time corresponds to a 1st type of generic report, generic report sub-type=summation function type as indicated by output 2554; however if the time corresponds to a 2nd type generic report, generic report sub-type=max function type as indicated by output 2556.

In step 2558, the wireless terminal determines which sector type the time corresponds to with respect to the attachment point for a specific type report. For example, in one exemplary embodiment, a recurring timing structure is subdivided into beaconslots, there are three different sector types, and the sector type associated with an indexed beaconslot alternates between the three different sector types. (See FIG. 18.) The output of step 2558 is one of sector type=sector type 0 2560, sector type=sector type 1 2562, and sector type=sector type 2 2564.

In some embodiments, the wireless terminal uses uplink loading factor information in calculating an interference report and includes steps 2546 and 2548. In step 2546, the wireless terminal monitors and receives, on an ongoing basis, uplink loading factor information corresponding to attachment points. Operation proceeds from step 2546 to step 2548, in which the wireless terminal applies default uplink loading factor values for attachment points of interest for which uplink loading factor information has not been received. Uplink loading factor information 2550, received and/or default information, is output from steps 2546 and/or 2548.

Returning to step 2556, in step 2556, the wireless terminal generates an interference report in accordance with the requested report type (specific or generic); in the case of a generic report the report also being in accordance with the report sub-type (summation function type or max function type); and in the case of a specific report the report relates to a specific identified attachment point, e.g., identified by cell identifier/sector type identifier combination, and to the current attachment point. Inputs available to step 2566 include at least some of: report type information 2568, generic report sub-type information 2570, cell identification information 2518, sector type information 2574, information relating beacon to pilot transmission power levels, current attachment point received strength information 2526, 1st additional attachment point received strength information 2528, Nth additional attachment point received strength information 2530 and uplink loading factor information 2550. Report type information 2568 identifies whether the report is to be a generic or specific report and is one of outputs 2514 and 2516. Generic report sub-type information 2570 identifies whether the report if it is a generic report is to use a summation function in generating the report or a maximum function in

generating the report. Generic report sub-type information 2570 is one of outputs 2554 and 2556. Cell ID information 2518 is the received value from the received report request control signal. Sector type information 2574 is one of the outputs 2560, 2562 and 2564. Information relating beacon/pilot transmission power levels includes power tier level information and other gain information relating the transmission power of a beacon signal to the transmission power of a pilot signal for an attachment point under consideration, as well as information relating transmission power levels between different attachment points.

For a generic report, the wireless terminal uses the received strength information 2526, 2528, . . . , 2530 to generate a interference report, the sub-type of report summation function type or max function type being determined by information 2570. For a specific type report the wireless terminal generates a report relating current attachment point received strength information 2526 to one of (1st additional attachment point received strength information 2528, . . . , Nth additional attachment point received strength information 2530), the one being determined by the identify of the additional attachment point which corresponds to the combination of the cell identifier 2518 and sector type 2574.

Operation proceeds from step 2566 to step 2584, where the wireless terminal transmits the generated interference report to the current attachment point.

FIG. 26 is a drawing of a table 2600 illustrating exemplary interference report signal usage and report computations in accordance with various embodiments. First column 2602 lists descriptive information pertaining to an interference report communicating a ratio of a first to a second value. Second column 2504 lists first value; third column 2606 lists second value; fourth column 2608 lists third value; fifth column 2510 lists fourth value; sixth column 2612 lists 1st signal type; seventh column 2614 lists 2nd signal type; eighth column 2616 lists 3rd signal type.

Each row (2618, 2620, 2622, 2624, 2626, 2628, 2630, 2632, 2632 describes a different report. Row 2618 pertains to a specific interference report using received beacon signal power measurements. Row 2620 pertains to a specific interference report using received pilot signal power measurements. Row 2622 pertains to a specific interference report using received pilot and beacon signal power measurements. Row 2624 pertains to a 1st sub-type of generic interference report using received beacon signal power measurements. Row 2626 pertains to a 2nd sub-type of interference report using received beacon signal power measurements. Row 2628 pertains to a 1st sub-type of generic interference report using received pilot signal power measurements. Row 2630 pertains to a 2nd sub-type of interference report using received pilot signal power measurements. Row 2632 pertains to a 1st sub-type of generic interference report using received pilot and beacon signal power measurements. Row 2630 pertains to a 2nd sub-type of interference report using received pilot and beacon signal power measurements.

In table 2600, b_0 is the loading factor corresponding to the first attachment point; PB_0 is the measured power of a received beacon signal from the first attachment point; PP_0 is the measured power of a received pilot signal from the first attachment point; b_1 is the loading factor corresponding to the second attachment point; PB_1 is the measured power of a received beacon signal from the second attachment point; PP_1 is the measured power of a received pilot signal from the second attachment point; b_2 is the loading factor corresponding to the third attachment point; PB_2 is the measured power of a received beacon signal from the second attachment point; PP_2 is the measured power of a received pilot signal from the

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second attachment point. For example, the first attachment point may correspond to the current serving attachment point to which the interference report is communicated, and the second and third attachment point may correspond to other local attachment points in the system. K is a scaling factor relating the transmission power strength of a beacon signal to the transmission power strength of a pilot signal.

In this example, it may be assumed that the beacon signal are transmitted at the same transmission power level from attachment points 1, 2, and 3; it may be also assumed that the pilot signal are transmitted at the same transmission power level from attachment points 1, 2, and 3.

In some embodiments, the beacon signals are transmitted at the same transmission power irrespective of the attachment point, while the transmission power level of the pilot signal varies as a function of the attachment point. In some such embodiments, different power tier levels are used for different attachment points and scaling factors relating the power tier levels of the different attachment points may be used in the interference report calculations.

Table 2600 describes exemplary generic reports using information from three different attachment points; the formulas used may be extended to include using received power measurements from additional attachment points.

FIG. 27 is a drawing of an exemplary wireless terminal 2700 implemented in accordance with various embodiments. Exemplary wireless terminal 2700 includes a receiver module 2702, a transmitter module 2704, a processor 2706, I/O devices 2708, and memory 2710 coupled together via a bus 2712 over which the various elements may interchange data and information. Memory 2710 includes routines 2718 and data/information 2720. The processor 2706, e.g., a CPU, executes the routines 2718 and uses the data/information 2720 in memory 2710 to control the operation of the wireless terminal 2700 and implement methods of the invention.

The receiver module 2702, e.g., an OFDM receiver, is coupled to receive antenna 2714 via which the wireless terminal receives downlink signals from base station attachment points. The downlink signals include various broadcast signals including beacon signals, pilot signals, and base station identification information, e.g., a locally unique cell identifier corresponding to an attachment point to be used in a specific type report, and request interference report type information, e.g., information distinguishing between a specific type interference report and a generic type interference report. In some embodiments, the locally unique base station identifier is of a sectorized base station at which the second attachment point is located. Receiver module 2702 receives a plurality of signals from multiple attachment points, said plurality of signals including a second signal, e.g., said second signal being a beacon or pilot signal from a second attachment point, said second attachment being in addition to a first attachment point, e.g., a current connection attachment point.

Transmitter module 2704, e.g., an OFDM transmitter, is coupled to transmit antenna 2716 via which the wireless terminal transmits uplink signals including generated interference reports, e.g., a beacon ratio report communicated over a dedicated control channel. In various embodiments, the receiver module 2702 and transmitter module 2704 use the same antenna, e.g., in conjunction with a duplex module.

Routines 2718 include communications routines 2722 and wireless terminal control routines 2724. Wireless terminal control routines 2724 include a monitoring module 2726, a first measurement module 2728, e.g., a beacon signal measurement module, a second measurement module 2732, e.g., a pilot signal measurement module, an interference report generation module 2734, a signal identification module 2736,

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a transmission time determination module 2738, a sector type determination module 2740, and a control module 2742. The first measurement module 2728 includes a signal power measurement module 2331. The second measurement module 2732 includes a signal power measurement module 2333.

Communications module 2722 implements various communications protocols used by the wireless terminal 2700. Monitoring module 2726 detects broadcast base station identification information, e.g., a locally unique base station identifier such as a cell slope value corresponding to a base station attachment point from which received signal strength measurements of beacons and/or pilots are to be obtained and used in a specific interference report that is being requested to be communicated over the uplink. First measurement module 2728 measures received signals of a first type, e.g., beacon signals. Second signal measurement module 2732 measures signals of a second type, e.g. pilot signals. Interference report generation module 2732 generates a report based on a measurement of a first received signal and a measurement of a second received signal, said first received signal being from a first attachment point with which said wireless terminal has a connection, said second received signal being from a second attachment point corresponding to base station identification information detected by said monitoring module 2726.

Signal identification module 2736 identifies the second signal from a plurality of signals as a function of detected broadcast base station identification information. Thus signal identification uses information from monitoring module 2726 in identifying the second signal. In some embodiments, the detected broadcast base station identification information is detected in a broadcast signal from the first attachment point, said broadcast signal being used to control multiple wireless terminals.

Transmission time determination module 2738 determines a transmission time at which a generated interference report is to be transmitted according to a predetermined function that uses the time at which a control signal including base station identification information is received as a transmission time control input. In some embodiments, the predetermined function determines the transmission time to be at a time corresponding to a fixed predetermined offset from the time at which the control signal is received.

Sector type determination module 2740 determines a sector identifier corresponding to a received base station identifier from the time at which the control signal is received, said sector identifier identifying a sector which serves as a second attachment point. In some embodiments, the sector identifier is determined as a function of stored timing structure information and a time slot in a recurring structure to which said received signal time corresponds.

Control module 2742 controls the interference report generation module 2734 to generate reports of different types in response to different received control signals, said different types of reports including at least a first type report and a second type report, said first type of report communicating a ratio or first and second values, one of said first and second values corresponding to a measurement of a signal from a current connection attachment point and the other one of said first and second values of an attachment point specified to the wireless terminal by the current connection attachment point, e.g., the current connection attachment point selects which of the other potential attachment points signals are to be used in calculating the interference report. For example, the first type of report may be a specific beacon ratio report and the second type of report may be a generic beacon ratio report. One received control signal, e.g., a value of 0 in a interference report request broadcast signal may signal that a generic

report is requested to be communicated; another received control signal, e.g., a positive integer value in an interference report request broadcast signal may signify that a specific type of beacon ratio report is being requested, with the positive integer value being used in identifying the second attachment point.

In some embodiments, the second type of report, e.g., a generic beacon ratio report, is generated using a maximum or summation function in processing signal measurement information corresponding to one or more signals.

In various embodiments, the interference report is an interference report which is a ratio of a first value to a second value, the first value being a function of the measured power of a first signal, e.g., a beacon or pilot signal from a first attachment point which is the current connection, and the second value being a function of the measured power of a second signal, e.g., a beacon or pilot signal from another base station attachment point, e.g., an adjacent cell and/or sector attachment point using the same carrier and/or tone block.

Data/information 2720 includes stored timing structure information 2744, detected broadcast base station identification information 2746, first received signal measurement information 2748, second received signal measurement information 2750, generated interference report information 2752, current attachment point connection ID information 2754, attachment point corresponding to detected base station identification information 2756, control signal reception time information 2758, received locally unique base station identification 2760, identified 2nd attachment point sector type 2762, determined time slot information 2764, 1st type interference report, e.g., specific interference report, information 2766, and 2nd type interference report, e.g., generic report, information 2768.

While described in the context of an OFDM system, the methods and apparatus of various embodiments, are applicable to a wide range of communications systems including many non-OFDM and/or non-cellular systems.

In various embodiments nodes described herein are implemented using one or more modules to perform the steps corresponding to one or more methods, for example, signal processing, beacon generation, beacon detection, beacon measuring, connection comparisons, connection implementations. In some embodiments various features are implemented using modules. Such modules may be implemented using software, hardware or a combination of software and hardware. Many of the above described methods or method steps can be implemented using machine executable instructions, such as software, included in a machine readable medium such as a memory device, e.g., RAM, floppy disk, etc. to control a machine, e.g., general purpose computer with or without additional hardware, to implement all or portions of the above described methods, e.g., in one or more nodes. Accordingly, among other things, various embodiments are directed to a machine-readable medium including machine executable instructions for causing a machine, e.g., processor and associated hardware, to perform one or more of the steps of the above-described method(s).

Numerous additional variations on the methods and apparatus described above will be apparent to those skilled in the art in view of the above descriptions. Such variations are to be considered within scope. The methods and apparatus of various embodiments may be, and in various embodiments are, used with CDMA, orthogonal frequency division multiplexing (OFDM), and/or various other types of communications techniques which may be used to provide wireless communications links between access nodes and mobile nodes. In some embodiments the access nodes are implemented as base

stations which establish communications links with mobile nodes using OFDM and/or CDMA. In various embodiments the mobile nodes are implemented as notebook computers, personal data assistants (PDAs), or other portable devices including receiver/transmitter circuits and logic and/or routines, for implementing the methods of various embodiments.

What is claimed is:

1. A method of operating a wireless terminal comprising:

receiving, from a first attachment point with which said wireless terminal has a connection, a request for a specific interference report that communicates information on interference to said first attachment point, at said wireless terminal, specifically from a second interfering attachment point, said request for a specific interference report including base station identification information identifying one of a plurality of interfering base stations, said identified one of the plurality of interfering base stations being a base station at which the second interfering attachment point is located;

receiving a first signal from said first attachment point; performing a first measurement on the received first signal; receiving a second signal from said second interfering attachment point;

performing a second measurement on the received second signal;

generating said specific interference report based on the first measurement of the received first signal and the second measurement of the received second signal; and transmitting the generated specific interference report.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

prior to generating said specific interference report, receiving a plurality of signals from multiple attachment points, said plurality of signals including the received second signal; and

identifying the received second signal from said plurality of signals as a function of the received base station identification information.

3. The method of claim 1,

wherein said first measurement is a power measurement of the received first signal;

wherein said second measurement is a power measurement of the received second signal; and

wherein generating said specific interference report includes generating a ratio of a first value to a second value, the first value being a function of a measured power of the received first signal and the second value being a function of a measured power of the received second signal, said specific interference report communicating said ratio.

4. The method of claim 3 further comprising:

prior to performing said step of transmitting the generated interference report, determining a transmission time at which the generated interference report is to be transmitted according to a predetermined function that uses a time at which said request for a specific interference report is received as a transmission time control input.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein said predetermined function determines said transmission time to be at a time corresponding to a fixed predetermined offset from the time at which said request for a specific interference report is received.

6. The method of claim 3, wherein generating said specific interference report includes:

generating the first value by multiplying the measured power of the first signal by a loading factor corresponding to said first attachment point; and

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generating the second value by multiplying the measured power of the second signal by a loading factor corresponding to said second interfering attachment point.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein said request for a specific interference report communicates a locally unique base station identifier of a sectorized base station at which said second interfering attachment point is located.

8. The method of claim 7, further comprising:

determining a sector identifier corresponding to the locally unique base station identifier from a time at which said request for a specific interference report is received, said sector identifier identifying a sector which serves as said second interfering attachment point.

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a request for a generic interference report that is to be based on signals received from a plurality of different interfering attachment points in addition to said first attachment point;

performing measurements on the plurality of signals received from the plurality of different interfering attachment points; and

generating said generic interference report based on one of a sum or maximum of the results of the measurements of said plurality of signals received from the plurality of different interfering attachment points.

10. The method of claim 1,

wherein said first attachment point is located at a different base station than said second interfering attachment point; and

wherein said specific interference report is an interference report which is a ratio of a first value to a second value, the first value being a function of a measured power of the received first signal and the second value being a function of a measured power of the received second signal.

11. A wireless terminal comprising:

a monitoring module for detecting a request for a specific interference report from a first attachment point with which said wireless terminal has a connection, said interference report communicating information on interference to said first attachment point, at said wireless terminal, specifically from a second interfering attachment point, said request for a specific interference report including base station identification information identifying one of a plurality of interfering base stations, said identified one of the plurality of interfering base stations being a base station at which said second interfering attachment point is located;

a first measurement module for measuring received signals of a first type;

a second measurement module for measuring received signals of a second type;

a report generation module for generating said specific interference report based on a measurement of a received first signal and a measurement of a received second signal, said received first signal being from said first attachment point, said received second signal being from said second interfering attachment point; and

a transmitter for transmitting the generated specific interference report.

12. The wireless terminal of claim 11, further comprising: a receiver for receiving a plurality of signals from multiple attachment points, said plurality of signals including the received second signal; and

a signal identification module for identifying the received second signal from said plurality of signals as a function of detected base station identification information.

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13. The wireless terminal of claim 11,

wherein said measurement of said received first signal is a power measurement of the received first signal;

wherein said measurement of said received second signal is a power measurement of the received second signal; and

wherein generating said specific interference report includes generating a ratio of a first value to a second value, the first value being a function of a measured power of the received first signal and the second value being a function of a measured power of the received second signal, said specific interference report communicating said ratio.

14. The wireless terminal of claim 11 further comprising:

a transmission time determination module for determining a transmission time at which the generated interference report is to be transmitted according to a predetermined function that uses a time at which said request for a specific interference report including said base station identification information is received as a transmission time control input.

15. The wireless terminal of claim 14, wherein said predetermined function determines said transmission time to be at a time corresponding to a fixed predetermined offset from the time at which said request for a specific interference report is received.

16. The wireless terminal of claim 11, further comprising:

a receiver for receiving said request for a specific interference report communicating broadcast base station identification information, said broadcast base station identification information including a locally unique base station identifier of a sectorized base station at which said second interfering attachment point is located.

17. The wireless terminal of claim 16, further comprising: a sector type determination module for determining a sector identifier corresponding to the locally unique base station identifier from a time at which said request for a specific interference report is received, said sector identifier identifying a sector which serves as said second interfering attachment point.

18. The wireless terminal of claim 11, further comprising:

a control module for controlling the report generation module to generate reports of different types in response to different received requests for an interference report, said different types of reports including at least a first type report and a second type report, said first type report communicating a ratio of a first value and a second value, one of said first and second values corresponding to a measurement of a signal from said first attachment point and the other one of said first and second values corresponding to a measurement of a signal from an attachment point specified to the wireless terminal by said first attachment point.

19. The wireless terminal of claim 18, wherein the second type of report is generated using a maximum or summation function used to process signal measurement information corresponding to one or more received signals.

20. The wireless terminal of claim 11, wherein said specific interference report is an interference report which is a ratio of a first value to a second value, the first value being a function of a measured power of the received first signal and the second value being a function of a measured power of the received second signal.

21. A wireless terminal comprising:

means for detecting a request for a specific interference report from a first attachment point with which said wireless terminal has a connection, said interference report communicating information on interference to

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said first attachment point, at said wireless terminal, specifically from a second interfering attachment point, said request for a specific interference report including base station identification information identifying one of a plurality of interfering base stations, said identified one of the plurality of interfering base stations being a base station at which said second interfering attachment point is located;

means for measuring received signals of a first type;

means for measuring received signals of a second type;

means for generating said specific interference report based on a measurement of a received first signal and a measurement of a received second signal, said received first signal being from said first attachment point, said received second signal being from said second interfering attachment point; and

means for transmitting the generated specific interference report.

22. The wireless terminal of claim **21**, further comprising: means for receiving a plurality of signals from multiple attachment points, said plurality of signals including the received second signal; and

means for identifying the received second signal from said plurality of signals as a function of detected base station identification information.

23. The wireless terminal of claim **21**, wherein said measurement of said received first signal is a power measurement of the received first signal; wherein said measurement of said received second signal is a power measurement of the received second signal; and wherein generating said specific interference report includes generating a ratio of a first value to a second value, the first value being a function of a measured power of the received first signal and the second value being a function of a measured power of the received second signal, said specific interference report communicating said ratio.

24. The wireless terminal of claim **21** further comprising: means for determining a transmission time at which the generated interference report is to be transmitted according to a predetermined function that uses a time at which said request for a specific interference report including said base station identification information is received as a transmission time control input.

25. The wireless terminal of claim **24**, wherein said predetermined function determines said transmission time to be at a time corresponding to a fixed predetermined offset from the time at which said request for a specific interference report is received.

26. The wireless terminal of claim **21**, further comprising: means for receiving said request for a specific interference report communicating broadcast base station identification information, said request for a specific interference report communicating a locally unique base station identifier of a sectorized base station at which said second interfering attachment point is located.

27. The wireless terminal of claim **26**, further comprising: means for determining a sector identifier corresponding to the locally unique base station identifier from a time at which said request for a specific interference report is received, said sector identifier identifying a sector which serves as said second interfering attachment point.

28. The wireless terminal of claim **21**, further comprising: means for controlling said means for generating said specific interference report to generate reports of different types in response to different received control signals, said different types of reports including at least a first

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type report and a second type report, said first type report communicating a ratio of a first value and a second value, one of said first and second values corresponding to a measurement of a signal from said first attachment point and the other one of said first and second values corresponding to a measurement of a signal from an attachment point specified to the wireless terminal by said first attachment point.

29. The wireless terminal of claim **28**, wherein the second type of report is generated using a maximum or summation function used to process signal measurement information corresponding to one or more received signals.

30. The wireless terminal of claim **21**, wherein said first attachment point is located at a different base station than said second interfering attachment point; and wherein said specific interference report is an interference report which is a ratio of a first value to a second value, the first value being a function of a measured power of the received first signal and the second value being a function of a measured power of the received second signal.

31. A non-transitory computer readable medium embodying machine executable instructions for controlling a wireless terminal, the non-transitory computer readable medium comprising:

instructions for controlling said wireless terminal to receive, from a first attachment point with which said wireless terminal has a connection, a request for a specific interference report that communicates information on interference to said first attachment point, at said wireless terminal, specifically from a second interfering attachment point, said request for a specific interference report including base station identification information identifying one of a plurality of interfering base stations, said identified one of the plurality of interfering base stations being a base station at which said second interfering attachment point is located;

instructions for controlling said wireless terminal to receive a first signal from said first attachment point;

instructions for controlling said wireless terminal to perform a first measurement on the received first signal;

instructions for controlling said wireless terminal to receive a second signal from said second interfering attachment point;

instructions for controlling said wireless terminal to perform a second measurement on the received second signal;

instructions for controlling said wireless terminal to generate said specific interference report based on the first measurement of the received first signal and the second measurement of the received second signal; and

instructions for controlling said wireless terminal to transmit the generated specific interference report.

32. The non-transitory computer readable medium of claim **31**, further embodying machine executable instructions for controlling said wireless terminal to:

receive, prior to generating said specific interference report, a plurality of signals from multiple attachment points, said plurality of signals including the received second signal; and

identify the received second signal from said plurality of signals as a function of the received base station identification information.

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33. The non-transitory computer readable medium of claim 31,

wherein said first measurement is a power measurement of the received first signal;

wherein said second measurement is a power measurement of the received second signal; and

wherein generating said specific interference report includes generating a ratio of a first value to a second value, the first value being a function of a measured power of the received first signal and the second value being a function of a measured power of the received second signal, said specific interference report communicating said ratio.

34. The non-transitory computer readable medium of claim 33 further embodying machine executable instructions for controlling said wireless terminal to:

determine, prior to transmitting the generated specific interference report, a transmission time at which the generated specific interference report is to be transmitted according to a predetermined function that uses a time at which said request for a specific interference report is received as a transmission time control input.

35. The non-transitory computer readable medium of claim 34, wherein said predetermined function determines said transmission time to be at a time corresponding to a fixed predetermined offset from the time at which said request for a specific interference report is received.

36. The non-transitory computer readable medium of claim 31 wherein said request for a specific interference report communicates a locally unique base station identifier of a sectorized base station at which said second interfering attachment point is located.

37. The non-transitory computer readable medium of claim 36, further embodying machine executable instructions for controlling said wireless terminal to:

determine a sector identifier corresponding to the locally unique base station identifier from a time at which said request for a specific interference report is received, said sector identifier identifying a sector which serves as said second interfering attachment point.

38. The non-transitory computer readable medium of claim 31, further embodying machine executable instructions for controlling said wireless terminal to:

receive a request for a generic interference report that is to be based on signals received from a plurality of different interfering attachment points in addition to said first attachment point;

perform measurements on the plurality of signals received from the plurality of different interfering attachment points; and

generate said generic interference report based on one of a sum or maximum of the results of the measurements of said plurality of signals from the plurality of different interfering attachment points.

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39. The non-transitory computer readable medium of claim 31, wherein said first attachment point is located at a different base station than said second interfering attachment point; and

wherein said specific interference report is an interference report which is a ratio of a first value to a second value, the first value being a function of a measured power of said received first signal and the second value being a function of a measured power of the received second signal.

40. A wireless terminal operable in a communications system, the wireless terminal comprising:

a processor configured to:

receive, from a first attachment point with which said wireless terminal has a connection, a request for a specific interference report that communicates information on interference to said first attachment point, at said wireless terminal, specifically from a second interfering attachment point, said request for a specific interference report including base station identification information identifying one of a plurality of interfering base stations, said identified one of the plurality of interfering base stations being a base station at which said second interfering attachment point is located;

receive a first signal from said first attachment point; perform a first measurement on the received first signal; receive a second signal from said second interfering attachment point;

perform a second measurement on the received second signal;

generate said specific interference report based on the measurement of the received first signal and the measurement of the received second signal; and transmit the generated specific interference report.

41. The wireless terminal of claim 40, wherein the processor is further configured to:

receive a plurality of signals from multiple attachment points prior to generating said specific interference report, said plurality of signals including the received second signal; and

identify the received second signal from said plurality of signals as a function of the received base station identification information.

42. The wireless terminal of claim 40,

wherein said first measurement is a power measurement of the received first signal;

wherein said second measurement is a power measurement of the received second signal; and

wherein generating said specific interference report includes generating a ratio of a first value to a second value, the first value being a function of a measured power of the received first signal and the second value being a function of a measured power of the received second signal, said specific interference report communicating said ratio.

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